WHO ARE CANADA'S WEALTHIEST PEOPLE? PG8

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Celebrity Buzz

Ferrell tops 'overpaid' list

pg 33

Movies

New Moon etches its own identity

pg 21

Oprah to end talk show after 25 years

TV The Oprah Winfrey Show will end its run in 2011 after 25 seasons on the air, Winfrey's production company said Thursday night.

Winfrey, who from her set in Chicago's West Loop neighbourhood became a billionaire and one of the most powerful women in entertainment, plans to announce the final date for her show during a live broadcast on Friday, said Harpo Productions Inc.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Oprah

News on the Move

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SCANLIFE

Children's Rights

Today is the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations. Metro is taking an in-depth look at children's issues.

- **UNICEF officials weigh in, pages 6, 10.**
- **Ryan Ross, below, is eight years old — and almost a millionaire, page 6.**
- **Annie Lennox campaigns for kids with AIDS, page 32.**

On the web

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Fabiola Carletti outside The Telus World Of Science on Thursday. In a move that brings attention to the venue, and new friends to Carletti, Science World has agreed to throw the new Vancouverite a 24th birthday party Friday night.

Mix one science centre, Facebook, get big party

Birthday bash result of innovative marketing, online connectivity

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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New Vancouverite Fabiola Carletti has got making friends down to a science. Her formula? A novel birthday party idea and Facebook.

Carletti, who moved from Toronto in September to attend the University of B.C., had her heart set on celebrating her 24th birthday at a Telus World of Science's After Dark event — a themed adults-only soiree.

When she learned there weren't any events planned for the immediate future, Science World told her they'd open the venue for the night — and provide a cash bar to boot — if Carletti could find 100 guests.

"I didn't think I'd actually be able to do it," said Carletti, who used Facebook to ask friends and classmates to spread the word.

"It's kind of like casting a line — you don't know if they're going to bite."

Open event

- Carletti's birthday party is an open event, and tickets are $15 at the door.
- The event runs from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., with pizza and a cash bar inside.

Carletti said guests started signing up in small increments.

"We'd be at 70 (guests) and stay there, and then all of a sudden it would jump to 85. I swear it stayed at 99 for so long. When it went to 100 I took a screen shot."

"It's exciting when Facebook can facilitate something you may have been interested in, but couldn't (pull off)."

Pamela Findling, spokesperson for Science World, said they've never done something like this at the venue before.

"It's a great opportunity for (Carletti) to have a (great birthday) and to have an audience that would not normally come into Science World," Findling said.

Vaccine available to all now

Flu Outbreak

HEALTH Roll up your sleeves B.C.

The largest mass vaccination in the province's history expanded Friday to include everyone who wants an H1N1 flu shot, said Dr. Perry Kendall, the province's chief medical health officer.

"I have to say that I'm hoping we run out of vaccine quickly," Kendall said. "Because I'd much rather that happen, than have the vaccine sit unused in people's fridges."

Kendall warned against complacency and said unless people get vaccinated there is still the potential for hospitalizations and deaths.

To date, about one million British Columbians have been vaccinated, including those who have the highest risk of complications.

On Monday, the eligibility to receive the H1N1 shot expanded from pregnant women and people with underlying health concerns to include first responders, healthy children and seniors with underlying health concerns.

Demand, however, was not as high as anticipated, Kendall said, with some clinics only operating at 50 per cent capacity.

Kendall also said the Vancouver Canucks jumped the queue when they got vaccinated earlier this week. The team said they got the vaccine after Health Canada expanded the eligibility, which is a provincial responsibility.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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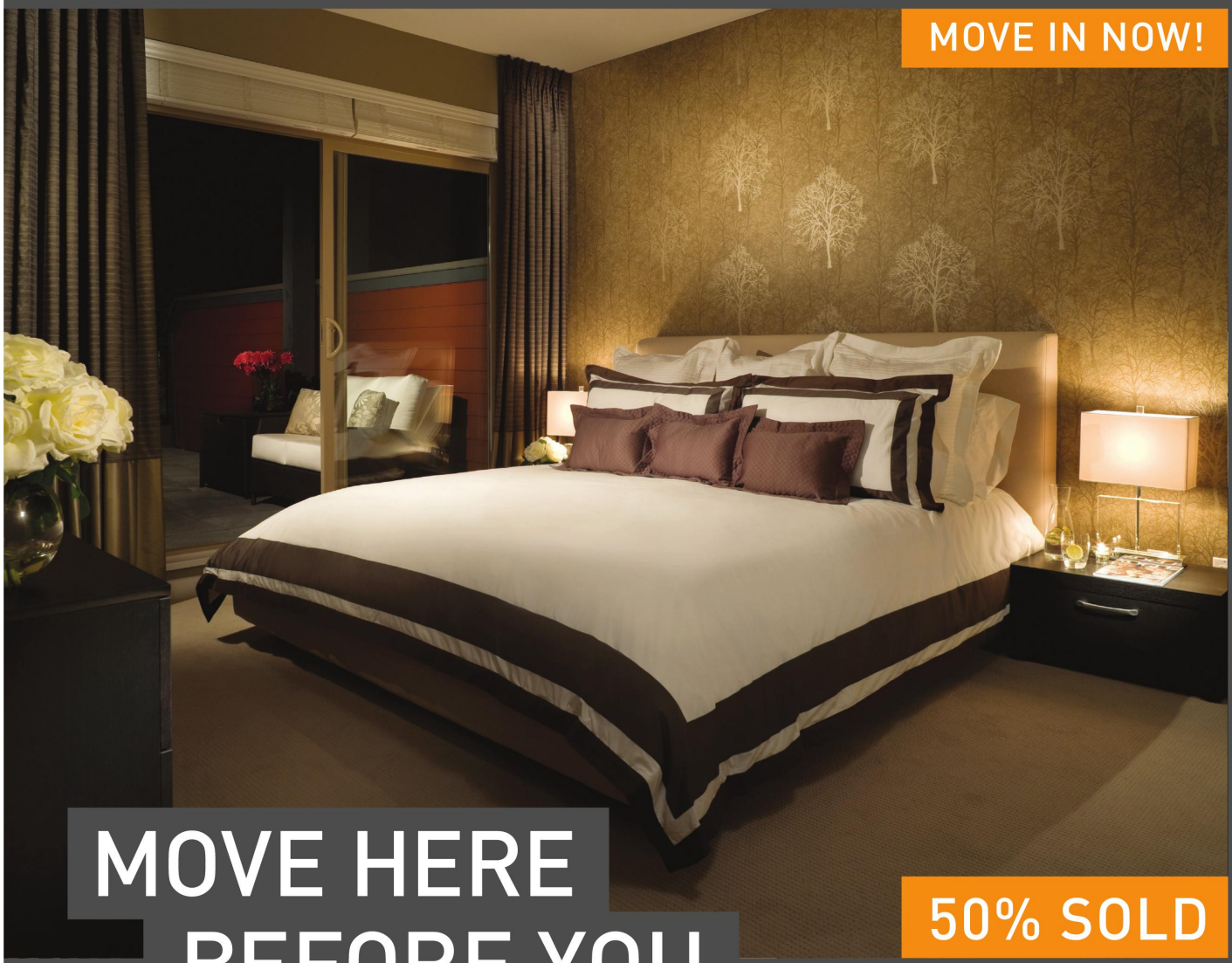

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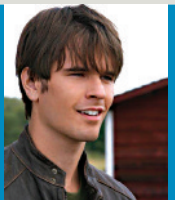

Meet Heartland stars at Chapters

Stars of the CBC show Heartland, including Vancouver actor Graham Wardle, left, will be at the Chapters store on Robson Street at 1 p.m. Saturday to meet fans and sign copies of the Heartland Season One DVD. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

DEAD DEAL A multimillion-dollar deal that would have seen as many as seven cruise ships anchored around the Vancouver region for spectators at the 2010 Winter Games is dead in the water. The economic downturn is being blamed.

SUSPECT The owner and an employee of a Burnaby pizza restaurant tackled and pinned down a man suspected of robbing 13 other fast food outlets, RCMP said Thursday. James Baryluk, 33, is facing robbery charges.

ARREST Police in Regina have arrested a man wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for sexual assault in Squamish and Ladysmith. Shaun Richard Funk is the suspect in the sexual assault of a woman in Squamish, who was then kidnapped and taken to Burnaby.

CRASH One person was seriously injured in an accident between a train and a pickup truck on Glover Road in Langley on Thursday, news1130.com reports. Emergency crews heading to the scene got involved in a separate crash on the way.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Backbeat rants on how TV talent shows are all talent, no work

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Gallery connecting children with arts

Family Fuse gives activities interdisciplinary twist

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Fine art isn't just for adults — at least not at the Vancouver Art Gallery this weekend.

The venue is holding the second of a series of three Family Fuse weekends, a massive kid-oriented art event themed in relationship to the gallery's current exhibits that features around 20 activities and performances.

Heidi Reitmaier, curator of public programs and education at the gallery, said this weekend's event is the Green World, which mirrors the Expanding Horizons and Scott McFarland exhibits that focus on landscape and nature.

Details

- Family Fuse runs Nov. 21 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Kids under 12 and gallery members get in free.

"We have invited musicians, dancers and animators to give a contemporary and interdisciplinary twist to the arts," said Reitmaier.

Kids will able to explore an imaginary forest, hunt for mythical creatures in landscape paintings and create their own take-home masterpieces.

Sound artists will lead children in creating and recording an ambient soundtrack to their own stop-animation workshop, while lighting and set designers will create a forest environment using shadows and projection.

"We're trying to help kids realize these things aren't stuck in history and that art is moving and alive," said Reitmaier. "And that they can participate in it."

MICHELLE THOMPSON-BAXTON/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

A child paints during the Vancouver Art Gallery's previous Family Fuse weekend event.

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Colbert declares Langley 'peanut punter' No. 1 threat

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

KICKER Late-night talk show comic Stephen Colbert has found a new gripe in the Lower Mainland — the Langley nut-kicker.

Last month, police warned the public after a Langley man was kicked in the groin by a female stranger with such force it caused one of his testicles to rupture. The testicle had to be removed and was replaced with a prosthesis.

On the Threat Down segment of Wednesday's Colbert Report, Colbert announced the woman — who has never been caught and is thought to have assaulted three other men — as his No. 1 threat to America.

"She has ... walked up to a total stranger and punted the living nad-lights out of him," Colbert said.

"Clearly this woman's ultimate target is me because, come next February, I could easily be in Canada with our speedskating team and this at-large peanut punter is training for the kicking of a lifetime."

Lower Mainland issues have been a hot topic on The Colbert Report of late. Recently, he slammed "maple syrup-sucking iceholes" for not giving American speedskaters their fair share of icetime at the Richmond Oval.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF COMEDY CENTRAL

Talk show host Stephen Colbert with his Big Brass Balls.

Bigger HST break eyed for new homes

HOUSING To help lessen the impact the HST will have on B.C.'s real-estate market, the province is proposing increasing the threshold for the new housing rebate.

The new rebate threshold is $525,000, up from $400,000, Finance Minister Colin Hansen said.

"We heard the concerns from consumers and industry about how the HST might affect home buyers, and this increase will move the threshold to above the average new home price in the province," Hansen said.

The maximum rebate is $26,250, which Hansen said is the highest maximum provincial rebate in Canada.

The HST kicks in July 1.

A spokeswoman for the Canadian Homebuilders Association of B.C. said the organization was looking for a threshold number closer to $600,000. Homes in B.C.'s urban centres, like Vancouver and Victoria, are on average the most expensive in the country.

STIG NIELSEN/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Whistler logs snowiest November on record

Whistler experienced its snowiest November after several storms pounded southwestern B.C, CBC News Online reports. The mountain resort has recorded 418 centimetres of snow so far with 11 days to go in the month. The previous November high, recorded in 2006, was 416 centimetres. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

City gateway for fake drugs

Border services intercepted 15,000 parcels in last 6 months

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An ever-increasing number of online bogus pharmaceuticals — including Viagra and Cialis — are getting a rise out of border agents who have the stiff task of sorting through 30 million packages a year.

In the past six months, officers in Vancouver have intercepted 15,000 parcels containing fraudulent prescription drugs, painkillers and health products, the Canada Border Services Agency said.

Consumers, who are looking for deals, purchase the drugs and supplements from legitimate-looking websites that purport to be Canadian.

In many cases, the sites are run by organized-crime groups and based in Europe.

The bogus pills, which are often indistinguishable from the real thing, are shipped into Vancouver, primarily from China, to addresses all over Canada.

And while importing pharmaceuticals is illegal in itself, the real danger, said RCMP Sgt. Duncan Pound, is that the pills are not what they claim to be.

"You have no idea of what is in the product or how it will affect you," Pound said. "It is playing Russian roulette with your health."

Among the fraudulent products arriving in great amounts, said Heather Ardiel, operations chief for the CBSA's international mail centre in Vancouver, is an Acai berry supplement that contains undisclosed sildenafil, or Viagra.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Canada Border Services Agency officer Keltie Blackstock sorts through packages at the international mail centre in Vancouver Thursday. Inset photo: Five ampoules of anabolic steroids found inside curry powder from Thailand.

Council approves funds to upgrade vacant DTES shops

CLEANUP Vancouver city council approved $700,000 on Thursday to improve the facades of vacant storefronts in the Downtown Eastside and Chinatown.

The program provides grants of up to $50,000 to non-profit organizations to renovate the storefronts in exchange for favourable lease terms.

A previous phase of the plan saw six facades upgraded and six new tenants, the majority arts-based businesses, along a five-block stretch on Hastings Street.

The plan approved Thursday includes another six storefronts on Hastings and six others in Chinatown. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

People features Twilight hangouts

MOVIES A list of the restaurants, shops and nightlife spots frequented by the cast of Twilight, New Moon in Vancouver has been compiled by People Magazine.

Robert Pattinson

Robert Pattinson, for example, celebrated his 23rd birthday at Glowbal Grill and Satay Bar in Yaletown, the magazine said.

He was joined by Kristen Stewart, Ashley Greene and Jamie Campbell Bower.

They also partied at the nearby Opus Hotel on various occasions, where they occasionally ordered late-night pizza.

One of their haunts, Richard's on Richards, is no longer around, however. It was shut down to make way for a condo development.

Among the restaurants they frequented were India Bistro, Cin Cin, Miku and Rodney's Oyster House.

New Moon opens Friday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 21

News in brief

BRAVERY A bus driver who spotted a Burnaby home on fire and alerted its four sleeping residents has won an award for his "heroic effort." Radenko Knezevic, a Coast Mountain Bus Company operator, received the Employee Excellence Award for 2009 from the Canadian Urban Transit Association in Ontario. Knezevic called 911 after spotting smoke rising from the home then pounded on the door until the residents woke up. He sheltered them in his bus, then used a garden hose to suppress the blaze until firefighters arrived.

LIBERALS The Liberal Party of Canada in B.C. is holding its biennial convention in Whistler this weekend. Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is expected to deliver the convention's keynote speech on Saturday.

ATTACK A 35-year-old Vancouver man was stabbed in the shoulder and punched by two men, police said Thursday. Officers believe the victim, who suffered minor injuries, knew his attackers.

TRAIL The Spirit of 2010 Trail is getting a $2.13-million boost from the provincial government. The trail is an 800-kilometre network of former rail corridors. **METRO VANCOUVER**

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Expand abuse treatment: Watchdog

Canada should take a page from the Americans and expand its network of kid-friendly, one-stop shops for treating sexually abused children, says the federal watchdog for crime victims. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Asthma a risk factor: Research

Researchers at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children say asthma appears to be a significant risk factor for severe cases of disease in kids who get the pandemic flu virus, compared to seasonal flu. Their new study — the second largest to date on the subject — was published online Thursday by the Canadian Medical Association Journal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tiny 'Trump' is mini-mogul

Ryan Ross has made $900,000 – and he's only 8 years old

Children's Rights

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

When Ryan Ross was three years old, he started a chicken-and-egg business in his back yard. Now the eight-year-old is on his fourth company — and has already earned close to a million dollars.

"I had 60 chickens and sold a dozen eggs for three dollars," recalls Ryan, who lives near Toronto. "I made $15 a day."

When he tired of selling eggs, Ryan launched his next venture: A lawn-mowing business. Ryan charged customers $20 per hour, but because he was too young to operate a lawnmower, he hired older kids to do the work — for $15 dollars an hour.

METRO WORLD NEWS PHOTO

Ryan Ross

"He made $5 per hour for doing nothing," says his mother, Savannah Ross.

"It was the same thing with his next company, a power-washing business. We supplied the power-washer; he charged the customer $200 and paid a person $100 to do the work. And they're all his ideas. My husband and I are adamant that Ryan has to understand everything he's doing. If I do it for him, it's my company."

All along, Ryan has been investing his profit in real estate.

Today he owns six buildings in Ontario and British Columbia; his personal net worth is $900,000. Ryan has also bought a hockey rink and basketball court for his family, and some 4,000 books for himself. But no cellphone: His parents won't allow it.

"His friends in school don't believe he's a businessman," says Savannah. "They think it's baloney."

But the ambitions of the Tiny 'Trump' go beyond real estate. "I want to buy two National Hockey League teams," Ryan tells Metro.

"That way I can play in the NHL."

Explains mother Savannah: "Ryan thinks hockey is all fun. But he has to understand the business side, so now we're setting up meetings with NHL owners. They think it's very cute."

OnlineVideo
See Ryan's sales pitch at metronews.ca/canada

Celebrating 20 years of commitment

Nigel Fisher

Children's Rights

On Nov. 20, 1989, global leaders made a commitment to the world's children.

They brought to life the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child — the first legally binding international convention to affirm human rights for all children, in all countries and cultures, at all times and without exception.

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Today marks the Convention's twentieth anniversary.

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The Convention has led to improvement in the lives of countless millions of children around the world.

But there is much more to be done.

Nigel Fisher is president & CEO of UNICEF Canada. To learn more about UNICEF go to www.unicef.org.

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Woman claims benefits cut due to Facebook photos

A Quebec woman on long-term sick leave is fighting to have her benefits reinstated after her employer's insurance company cut them, she says, because of photos of a beach vacation posted on Facebook, CBC News Online reports. Nathalie Blanchard has been off work since she was diagnosed with major depression. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Detainee lessons learned: General

Canada's military task force in Afghanistan learned its lesson several years ago when allegations first surfaced that detainees were being tortured at the hands of local intelligence authorities, the mission's newly appointed commander said Thursday.

Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard said Canadian forces responded appropriately in 2007 after the allegations first surfaced by implementing more rigorous handover procedures and new safeguards to ensure prisoners could be monitored more effectively once in Afghan custody.

"We have certainly learned our lessons," Menard said after a change-of-command ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, where he took over the task force from outgoing commander Brig.-Gen. Jonathan Vance.

"One thing that has been done right from the beginning is that every time that we have heard about anything to do with torture or something that was similar to this, some actions were taken by this task force in order to correct this."

His comments came a day after a federal official dropped a political bombshell on Parliament, alleging that suspects handed over by Canada to Afghan authorities were tortured and that the government was at best indifferent and at worst tried to cover it up.

The stunning revelation was delivered by Richard Colvin, an intelligence officer based in Washington, who spent 18 months in Afghanistan in the No. 2 diplomatic post.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Richard Colvin is the latest in a string of critics to draw the Tories' wrath. Scan this code or visit metronews.ca for the full article.

Tories say Colvin has no evidence

TORTURE The Harper government is dismissing calls for a public inquiry into bruising allegations by a federal official that the military handed over Afghan prisoners to face torture.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay told a raucous House of Commons on Thursday that there's no evidence to support the allegations by Richard Colvin, even going so far as to describe the intelligence officer as "a suspect source."

Colvin told a Commons committee a day earlier that prisoners were turned over to Afghanistan's notorious intelligence service by the Canadian military in 2006-07 despite warnings that they would be tortured. He also suggested the federal government may have tried to cover up what was happening.

All three opposition parties attacked the Conservatives and demanded an inquiry, but the Tories were unmoved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Warning issued for pet medication

ANIMALS Health Canada is warning veterinarians and pet owners about possible problems with Caninsulin, a drug used to treat diabetes in dogs and cats.

The problems relate to varying amounts of crystalline zinc insulin in the product, which could cause either a delay in the time it takes to become effective or lead to longer-lasting effects. The result could be unpredictable fluctuations in the glucose levels of treated animals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thomson clan remains Canada's richest

WEALTH The wealthy Thomson family remains number 1 on the latest Canadian Business magazine list of the 100 richest Canadians.

Galen Weston

Jim Balsillie

Robert Friedland

The Thomson clan, which controls the Thomson Reuters news and specialized data company, has amassed roughly $21.99 billion, up 19 per cent over last year.

Most of that is in the stock value of the company the family controls as well as its investments in other firms, including a large stake in CTVglobemedia, owner of the CTV network and the Globe and Mail newspaper.

But that growth is nothing compared with Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. executive chairman Robert Friedland.

The magazine says his worth rose 217 per cent to $1.59 billion and he jumped 61 spots to number 32 on the list.

The number 2 spot on the Canadian Business list is occupied by Irving Oil owners James Arthur and John Irving at $7.28 billion.

Galen Weston, owner of Loblaw Cos. Ltd., Canada's largest supermarket chain, is third with $6.47 billion, followed by Vancouver businessman Jimmy Pattison at $5.07 billion. Pattison's private companies range from advertising and car dealerships to forestry, manufacturing and shipping.

The Rogers family of Toronto, owners of Rogers Communications, Canada's largest cable TV and cellphone operator, rounds out the Top 5 at $4.7 billion.

Research in Motion Ltd. co-CEOs Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie rank number 9 and number 16, respectively, with net worths of $2.9 billion and $2.67 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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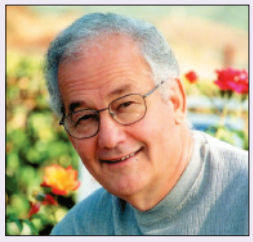

Dr. Vernon Woolf
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~ Olga Sokolova, nominated for the Peace Nobel Prize as one of the top 1000 women of the World in 2005

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Man dies after spending last eight months of life in one chair

An obese South Carolina man stayed in his recliner without moving for eight months until shortly before his death. Firefighters had to cut Tillmon Webb, 33, from the chair. Police say the man weighed about 800 pounds when he died Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Lebanese star under fire for racist lyrics

A Lebanese pop singer, who normally stirs controversy for seductive dresses and provocative dancing, has been accused of singing a song with racist lyrics that compares black Egyptians to monkeys. Haifa Wehbe, left, has the minority Nubian community in Egypt distraught over her children's album Baby Haifa and the community's activists have launched several lawsuits over the lyrics. The Nubians took issue with a verse in the song Where is Daddy? in which Wehbe croons: "Where is my teddy bear and my Nubian monkey?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Put children's rights found on paper into practice: Advocate

Children's Rights

Is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child worth the paper it's printed on?

On its 20th anniversary, the unspeakably tragic lives of so many children in the world force the question.

Signed on Nov. 20, 1989, the agreement spelled out the basic human rights of those under age 18: The right to survival, full development, non-discrimination, and protection from abuse and exploitation.

It's been ratified by 193 nations, including Canada, but not the U.S. — a fact President Barack Obama has called "embarrassing" (it's now under review). Two subsequent amendments restrict the use of under-18s in armed conflict and ban the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography.

On paper, the convention was a profound advance in international human values. On paper, the world cares deeply about its children.

But in reality?

"It's the most ratified, least implemented convention ever," says Kathy Vandergrift, chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children.

In 1989, when optimism was in the political air, the agreement was seen as visionary. Who could object? Nations rushed to sign on.

But the global context has changed, says Vandergrift: "Now we have to move from idealism to using it as a practical tool for change."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three-year-old Marina, middle, plays with children in the back of a garbage truck in Muqattam Hills, where many garbage collectors live and work, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt.

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To read a story on calls for a national strategy to help child victims of sex abuse, scan this code or visit metronews.ca.

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Canada's shortcomings

- Twenty years after the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 12.5 per cent of Canada's youngsters live in poverty and 120,000 are in the welfare system or in custody, the highest number per capita of all industrialized nations, says Kathy Vandergrift, chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children "People think this is all about Africa and Asia. But unless a country like Canada takes the convention seriously, there is no momentum elsewhere."

Outstanding achievements seen over the last 20 years

Children's Rights

NewsAnalysis

Ann Veneman

Guest Columnist

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a universal standard for building a better world — a world in which the best interests of children are a primary concern of all. On Nov. 20 the global community commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Convention, the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

The era of the Convention has seen marked advances in child survival and development, expanded and consolidated efforts to protect children, and a growing recognition of the importance of empowering children to participate in their own development and protection.

One of the most outstanding achievements in child survival and development has been the reduction in the annual number of under-five deaths, from 12.5 million in 1990 to less than nine million in 2008.

Fewer child deaths have resulted from the immense efforts of national governments and the international health community to prevent and control diseases and enhance food and nutrition. But much more must be done to make the promise of the Convention a reality for every child around the world.

More than 24,000 children under the age of five still die every day from largely preventable causes.

And millions of children, particularly in Africa and Asia, still lack access to quality health care, food, education, adequate water sources and shelter. Even more, between 500-million and 1.5-billion children are estimated to experience some form of violence each year.

These statistics alone are a sobering reminder of the work that lies ahead. The Convention has paved the way for the consolidation of child protection as a holistic concept, offering children the right to be safeguarded against a broad spectrum of violence, exploitation, abuse, discrimination and neglect.

The challenge for the next 20 years is to build on the progress the Convention has already achieved.

Ann Veneman is the Executive Director of UNICEF. To learn more about UNICEF go to unicef.org.

Southern Death Threat

Southern Death Threat was formed in early 2005 by guitarist\songwriter Brennan Eyles. Eyles came up with the name of the group on his way to a New York Yankees baseball game in Seattle. "I was watching CNN and the US was engaging in conflicts with North Korea, and Iraq. With all the nuclear ambitions and the US being bully's it made sense." says Eyles. After auditioning numerous musicians and singers, Eyles found his match with the current lineup. New lead singer Nick Oszinski has a powerful voice. Drummer Scotty McCargar (Bif Naked) beats the skins and is considered one of the best. Bass player Howard 'howie hammer' Humenick completes this aggressive 4 piece. With an explosive live show SDT gives fans a reason to rock out. *Bottom line: Southern Death Threat is a force to be reckoned with!*

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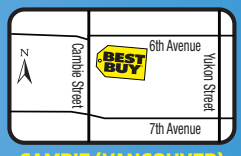

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Comment

Attractions may be paradise lost

UrbanCompass

Perched atop Queen Elizabeth Park is the Bloedel Conservatory, one of Vancouver's best-kept secrets.

For the price of a latté you enter a geodesic dome and are transported to a tropical paradise of trees and flowers as 100 species of birds fly freely around the dome and exotic koi swim in tranquil pools. The air inside the dome feels and smells magical.

Paradise is conveniently located at 33rd and Cambie, which makes it easy to take a tropical vacation and escape the dreariness of November in the rain forest over lunch.

This year, the conservatory is celebrating its 40th anniversary. To celebrate, the Vancouver park board wants to shut it down.

That's right. Faced with a $2.8-million budget shortfall, the board has the conservatory in its sights, as well as the Stanley Park petting zoo, another stupefying penny-wise, pound-foolish decision. The board figures to save $100,000 a year on the zoo and only $23,000 on the conservatory. That's peanuts in a town where we're about to spend $450 million on a roof for B.C. Place.

The board has deferred the decision by a week, but the future looks grim. The conservatory needs structural repairs, which could get pricey, and attendance is declining. The park board website calls it one of the most popular attractions in Vancouver, but I wonder how many Vancouverites have actually been there, and the park board must be reluctant to bear the cost of a revitalization and marketing campaign.

As for the petting zoo, I suspect its fate was sealed after 13 people came down with E. coli infections after visiting the petting zoo at the PNE last summer. With our current sky-is-falling phobia about germs-disease-infection, I'm surprised they don't make you wear gloves and masks to pat the bunnies. Instead, they just want to shut it down.

In this increasingly concrete jungle, the petting zoo and conservatory are endangered species — places where families can go and get close to the gentle side of nature. Not everyone can go hurtling down the side of a mountain — not everyone can afford it, either.

These are the kinds of experiences that little kids thrive on, that stoke their sense of wonder and joy. If you shut them down, you save a few bucks, but at what cost? There is still time for the park board to include the kids' future in its budget calculations.

Save the bunnies, dammit.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Finish this sentence: If I ruled the world, I would ...

Aranxa Diaz, age 7, Vancouver
A: I would give stuff to everybody. Toys and jewelry and clothes and food and stuff.

Alexander Anthony Knickle, age 4, Vancouver
A: I would play the piano and I would eat breakfast all day.

Vivian Greene, age 4, Vancouver
A: I would be a queen if I ruled the world, in a castle over there (points toward False Creek) and I would shoot the bad guys.

Cameron Lewis, age 8, Dartmouth, N.S.
A: I would make everyone hop on one foot for the rest of their lives.

Hannah Heise, age 7, Edmonton
A: I would shop for clothes. I would care for the people in Haiti. I would pay for them and I would give them some of my allowance.

Timkin Yim, age 9, Toronto
A: I would be a billionaire ... I would spend it on those billionaire houses and those billionaire cars ... And I would have someone to serve me.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Avaya gets clearance for Nortel acquisition

Avaya Inc. says it has received clearance from the European Commission for its proposed acquisition of Nortel's enterprise solutions business. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Shops plan discounts to lure consumers

Canadian retailers are getting ready for the holiday season with rock-bottom prices and major promotional campaigns in hopes that shoppers will open their wallets and seize the opportunity to save.

Both U.S.-based retailing giant Wal-Mart and Sears Canada have unveiled campaigns centred around lower prices, particularly on bigger ticket items like iPods, LCD televisions, Blu-Ray players and cooking sets.

The price cuts come at a time when Canadians are not exactly in a mood to part with their cash — a recent consumer confidence study from research firm TNS suggests an increasing number are planning to put off major purchases.

The report indicates consumers are expected to tighten their spending habits to the lowest levels in four years, with about one-third of those surveyed expecting to spend less during the holidays than last year.

Those weaker expectations have persisted throughout the industry in recent months, with many retailers complaining that sales have remained stagnant since the startup of holiday shopping weeks ago.

Wal-Mart says it will cut the prices of more than 18,000 items this month, which it says amounts to 20 per cent more cuts than at the same time last year.

"We know this has been a tough year for Canadians, so we have made every effort to drop our prices and help Canadians make their dollars go farther this holiday season," said David Cheesewright, the president and CEO of the retail giant's Canadian operations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We know this has been a tough year for Canadians, so we have made every effort to drop our prices ... this holiday season."
David Cheesewright, Wal-Mart CEO

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Trump Ideal vitamins?

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Donald Trump, shown at a seminar in Ottawa in September, has partnered with Ideal Health, a Massachusetts-based nutritional products firm, and renamed it "The Trump Network." The Ideal Health premise is simple: Send results of in-home urinalysis test to a lab where scientists analyze it to create a custom vitamin, later formulated by Custom Essentials.

AOL offers buyouts to 2,500 staff

JOB CUTS AOL LLC, an Internet company struggling to adapt to an advertising-driven economy, is looking to shed more than one-third of its workforce as it prepares to spin off from Time Warner Inc. next month.

Major job cuts had been expected, but the magnitude hadn't been known until Thursday. AOL, which employs 6,900 workers, is asking for 2,500 volunteers to accept buyouts and plans to resort to layoffs if it does not get enough people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister to 'level playing field' for plastic

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is proposing a code of conduct for credit- and debit-card companies that he says will "level the playing field" for consumers and small businesses alike — but not before the holiday shopping season.

The code, intended to promote fair business practices and ensure merchants and consumers clearly understand the costs and benefits of credit and debit cards, won't be finalized before early next year. It aims to provide merchants with more pricing flexibility so consumers can choose the best payment option and would allow merchants to choose payment options.

"The proposed code is based on ongoing discussions with merchant and consumer associations, debit- and credit-card networks, payment processors and credit-card issuers," Flaherty said Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Draft code of conduct

- The code of conduct would require credit- and debit-card companies to give merchants at least 90 days' notice of changes to transaction fees.
- It would allow merchants to cancel contracts with card issuers without penalty after notification of fee changes.

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Former student off the hook for loans, court rules

A Nova Scotia court has ruled that a former university student does not have to pay back tens of thousands of dollars he borrowed from a bank, CBC News Online reports. Alfredo Abdo won his case in bankruptcy court, with the court concluding the Royal Bank of Canada was partly responsible for what happened. METRO NEWS SERVICES

U.S., Japan to grow faster than Canada: OECD

The world's rich and developed economies will grow faster next year than expected, but the recovery will remain modest, with the U.S. and Japan outpacing Europe and other developed economies, including Canada, a Paris-based watchdog said.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development more than doubled its estimate for 2010 growth in its 30 member countries — which include Canada, the U.S., Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom — to 1.9 per cent.

Unemployment and GDP

- According to the OECD country survey, unemployment in Canada is projected to keep rising until the end of 2009. As well, it expects a contraction of 2.7 per cent in Canada's gross domestic product this year.

Still, the recovery is expected to remain fragile.

"In most OECD economies, growth is likely to fluctuate around a modest underlying rate for some time to come," said OECD's top economist, Jorgen Elmeskov. The OECD also reduced the expected contraction this year to 3.5 per cent from an earlier forecast of 4.1 per cent.

In Canada, "the contraction that began in the last quarter of 2008 seems to have ended in the second half of 2009," the OECD said in its survey.

"External demand and domestic investment now appear to be rebounding, but they also pose the greatest risks to the recovery's sustainability."

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Companies partner to develop wind farm

ENERGY Enbridge Inc. and Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. announced Thursday a partnership to develop a wind energy project in Ontario that would create 300 construction jobs.

The Talbot wind energy project in Chatham, Ont., will deliver energy to the Ontario Power Authority under a 20-year purchase agreement after it is completed in December 2010.

The two companies have invested a total of approximately $285 million in the 99-megawatt project, with Enbridge holding a majority interest.

The project will be structured as a limited partnership owned by both companies with construction taken on by RES.

It will create an estimated 300 construction jobs and eight direct operation jobs.

"Investing in renewable energy diversifies our business and further strengthens our financial position with stable cash flow, attractive returns and reduced business risk," said Patrick Daniel, Enbridge's president and chief executive officer.

"The Talbot wind energy project will advance Enbridge's commitment to an environmentally-neutral footprint by 2015 while generating attractive economics."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

INDUSTRY GE Canada says it will spend up to $100 million over the next five years to upgrade design, production and process capabilities at its Peterborough, Ont.-based industrial motor factory. The Canadian unit of global conglomerate General Electric says it needs to make the upgrades to stay competitive, and adds that the upgrade is expected to create about 100 jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

National composite leading index continues to rise
The national composite leading index rose by 0.7 per cent in October, the fourth straight monthly increase, Statistics Canada revealed Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. premier to rebuff Williams on NB Power

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham says he will try to correct misleading statements from Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams over the proposed sale of NB Power when he meets with him later Thursday.

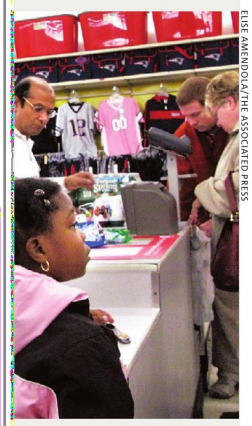
Graham, Williams and the premiers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are convening in Churchill Falls, N.L., to discuss energy issues.

Graham and Williams have been at loggerheads since the tentative $5-billion deal to sell NB Power to Hydro-Quebec was announced three weeks ago.

Williams has accused Graham of relinquishing control over New Brunswick's public power company for short-term gain, and earlier this week he told a business audience in New York that they should be wary of the proposal because it would give Quebec a "stranglehold" on energy exports into the northeastern United States.

Williams has vowed to fight the takeover before the federal Competition Bureau and possibly in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kmart Sales up



ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoppers wait in the checkout line at a Kmart store in the U.S. Kmart said sales at stores open at least a year grew 0.5 per cent in the third quarter thanks to stronger sales of toys and shoes. It was the first positive sales performance at Kmart in more than four years.

Prepare for increased mortgage rates: Advisers

RATES The Canadian housing market has seen a stronger and faster rebound from the recession than any other segment of the economy, due in large part to enticingly low mortgage rates.

But rates this low — 5.59 per cent for a five-year fixed-rate mortgage and 2.25 per cent for a five-year variable-rate mortgage at one bank — can't last forever, and experts are advising borrowers to prepare for higher rates within the next 12 months.

"Interest rates will rise — it's just a question of time, it's not a question of if."
Benjamin Tal, economist

"We have to realize those are emergency interest rates," said CIBC economist Benjamin Tal.

"Interest rates will rise — it's just a question of time, it's not a question of if. And if that's the case, we have to make sure that when we borrow this money we can afford the same mortgage 200 or 300 basis points higher.

"That's the key responsibility now of borrowers and lenders, to make sure that what we do, we do it in a prudent way."

Depending on whether they are fixed or floating-rate, mortgages are tied to either the bond market or the Bank of Canada's key lending rate, which are closely related.

The central bank's rate has been sitting at a record low of 0.25 per cent since the spring and it has said it will keep it steady until at least next June.

On Wednesday, three of Canada's biggest banks — Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal and TD Bank — announced that they will cut posted rates for fixed-rate mortgages by up to 0.25 percentage points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Visa card ($500)
Rebate ($6,250)
KIA Vancouver price $23,695
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PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

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KIA Soul 2010
MSRP $17,445
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KIA Vancouver price $16,150
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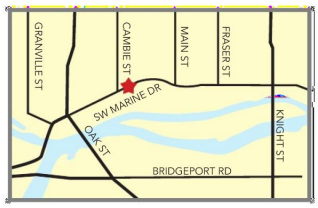
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)



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Poor weather in U.S. could affect supplies of Pumpkin pie

THANKSGIVING The U.S. Thanksgiving holiday may not be so sweet this year. Nestle — which sells nearly all the canned pumpkin in the U.S. — says poor weather hurt its harvest, creating a potential shortage of its Libby's pumpkin pie products through the holidays.

In a statement this week, Nestle said heavy rains made it nearly impossible to pick its pumpkins during this year's harvest. The longer the pumpkins sit in the muddy fields, the more they deteriorate. As a result, Nestle said that it would not pack any more pumpkins this year, which means it may be hard to find its canned pumpkin and pumpkin pie filling product until next year's harvest.

"Mother Nature had other plans for us," the company said in an apology to customers online.

Nestle is the largest U.S. brand for canned pumpkin products, with 80 to 90 per cent of the market, the company said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AOL looking to shed more than a third of its workforce

INTERNET AOL LLC, an Internet company struggling to adapt to an advertising-driven economy, is looking to shed more than a third of its workforce as it prepares to spin off from Time Warner Inc. next month.

Major job cuts had been expected, but the magnitude hadn't been known until Thursday.

AOL, which now employs 6,900 workers, is asking for 2,500 volunteers to accept buyouts and plans to resort to layoffs if it does not get enough people.

AOL hopes to trim annual costs by about $300 million.

The job cuts still need approval from the new AOL board and come on top of about 100 layoffs on Nov. 10. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

BOMBARDIER Aerospace challenges pressured stock in Bombardier Thursday, a day after its ground transportation division scored a coup by being chosen preferred bidder in a French rail project. Shares of the Montreal-based manufacturer dipped 14 cents at $4.84 in morning trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. That followed a nearly six per cent increase Wednesday after France's national railway confirmed it was in exclusive talks with Bombardier on a deal that could be worth up to $12.6 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

South African runner allowed to keep medal

South African runner Caster Semenya will keep her 800-metre gold medal from the world championships, and the results of her gender tests will be kept confidential, the South African sports ministry said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Ireland demands replay of game

Ireland appealed to France and football authorities Thursday to replay their World Cup playoff in Paris after an obvious handball by Thierry Henry produced the winning goal. Ireland's government and football association are united in demands for Wednesday's 1-1 tie in France to be replayed, although Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni, left, dismissed the prospect as "impossible." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clash of personalities

BARRETT HOOPER
for Metro Canada

UFC There are plenty of reasons to tune in to Saturday's UFC 106 main event but the fight itself, a rematch between Tito Ortiz and Forrest Griffin, is almost an afterthought.

It's not as though fans have been clamouring for the two former light-heavyweight champs to settle some UFC-fabricated grudge that's lingered since Ortiz won a split decision three years ago. In fact, Griffin is a pinch-hitter for an injured Mark Coleman, and the original main event was actually a heavyweight title fight between champ Brock Lesnar and Shane Carwin, which was cancelled when Lesnar became ill.

That doesn't mean the fight isn't without drama. It's as much about a clash of personalities as it is fighting styles.

Ortiz is a cocky loudmouth who hasn't fought in 18 months, in part due to back surgery but mostly because he and one-time close friend, UFC president Dana White, hated each other's guts.

While Ortiz is one of MMA's most disliked fighters, Griffin is one of its most popular, in large part because he won the first season of The Ultimate Fighter reality series.

But the last time we saw Griffin, he was sprinting from the octagon in embarrassment after getting knocked out by Anderson Silva at UFC 101.

Hopefully, the fight between Ortiz the wrestler and Griffin the striker lives up to the buildup.

CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Dolphin Ricky Williams stretches the ball over the goal line for a touchdown as Carolina Panther Jon Beason falls behind him on Thursday in Charlotte, N.C.

Dolphins back in it

Ricky Williams is 32 and far from done. And even without Ronnie Brown, the once written-off Miami Dolphins are back in the playoff picture.

Williams rushed for 119 yards and scored three touchdowns, and the Dolphins beat the Carolina Panthers 24-17 on Thursday night for their fourth win in six games.

A day after learning Brown is lost for the season, the Dolphins (5-5) continued their surge after an 0-3 start behind Williams.

"Coach always talks about finishing," Williams said. "Sometimes in this league, in a physical game, it's difficult to finish. I think in the past we've prided ourselves on finishing games and we did a good job tonight."

It was enough to beat the Panthers (4-6) when Jake Delhomme's desperation pass into the end zone was knocked down as time expired. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL RESULTS

Dolphins 24 **Panthers** 17

VS

Sports in brief

NHL British Columbia's provincial health officer says members of the Vancouver Canucks jumped the queue when they received their H1N1 vaccinations earlier this week.

BASEBALL San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum won the NL Cy Young Award Thursday for the second straight year. Chris Carpenter was second and St. Louis teammate Adam Wainwright finished third.

BASEBALL The Yankees' Andy Pettitte and the Mets' Fernando Tatis have become the final players to file for free agency this year.

m.metronews.ca

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Mayweather to fight Pacquiao?
Bob Arum of promoter Top Rank said Thursday he's ready to negotiate a showdown between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao, even suggesting potential locations and acknowledging that his Filipino star is willing to fight at 147 pounds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians still love skating? Go figure

The greatest outcome of the TV hit Battle of the Blades is that we Canadians have fallen in love with figure skating again.

Sure, there was the original fascination with hockey gods in sparkling outfits, dancing daintily without pads. Maybe we shared a secret hope for an untimely pratfall. At the outset we were a bit like voyeurs waiting for the proverbial train wreck to happen.

It never did.

Instead we rediscovered a deep affection for something that was always there — and that something is the majestic athleticism of figure skating.

So while Claude Lemieux, Craig Simpson and the rest of our hockey heroes became the focus of national attention for a moment, they were in fact our guides back to a wondrous sport that is so intrinsically Canadian.

When, in the grand finale, four-time world champion Kurt Browning gyrated around Maple Leaf Gardens ice, the clock went back to the glory days when he was king. The same was true of the poignant reunion of Barb Underhill and Paul Martini, who once reigned over global pairs skating. Meanwhile, Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon showed us the true magic of dancing on a frozen pond.

Let's hope Canada embraces figure skating and expresses this renewed connection to the obvious thrill of the sport now that Battle of the Blades has gone into hiatus.

The current generation of stars is anxiously entering its most competitive stage on the way to the home Olympics in Vancouver. It's a safe bet figure skating will claim much of the spotlight come February and almost certainly generate some of the signature moments of the Games.

Just as the "Battle of the Brians" (Orser and Boitano), and Elizabeth Manley and Katerina Witt gave the 1988 Calgary Olympics so much character, so too will the modern crop of Canadian skaters.

In Kitchener this weekend at Skate Canada, the final Grand Prix of the season, Patrick Chan, Joannie Rochette, Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison in the pairs, and ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir take the stage to form the strongest Canadian team in recent memory. All have hopes to win a medal at the Olympics.

Their spirits should soar because of a simple truth a reality show revealed: Canada has found its way back to loving figure skating.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 6 Toronto 5 (SO)
Chicago 7 Calgary 1
Ottawa 6 Pittsburgh 2
Anaheim 4 Tampa Bay 3 (SO)
Boston 4 Atlanta 3 (SO)
Columbus 4 Dallas 1
Nashville 3 New Jersey 2 (SO)
St. Louis 3 Phoenix 2 (OT)

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Washington
Boston at Buffalo
Florida at Detroit
N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota
Colorado at **VANCOUVER**
Philadelphia at San Jose
Tampa Bay at Anaheim

NFL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Miami 24 Carolina 17

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Detroit
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
Washington at Dallas
San Francisco at Green Bay
Indianapolis at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at Kansas City
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Jacksonville
Seattle at Minnesota
Arizona at St. Louis
N.Y. Jets at New England
San Diego at Denver
Cincinnati at Oakland
Philadelphia at Chicago

MONDAY'S GAME
Tennessee at Houston

CFL

SUNDAY
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B.C. at Montreal
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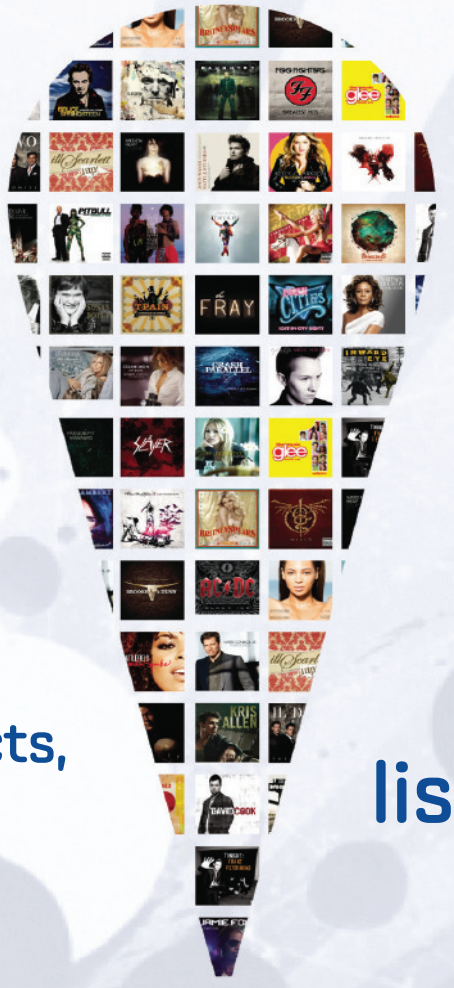

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Bella's back

Pg 21

Kristen Stewart stars in the vampiric blockbuster-in-waiting New Moon, which our reviewer says is sure to please Twilight fans.

Movies

Pg 24

Sandra Bullock's latest film, The Blind Side, bores.

Music

Pg 29

Alan Cross takes on Them Crooked Vultures.

Television

Pg 30

Cra$h and Burn looks at corruption in The Hammer.

"BOTH FUNNY AND UPLIFTING,
'The Blind Side' is one of the best films of the holiday season!" - Mose Persico, CTV MONTREAL

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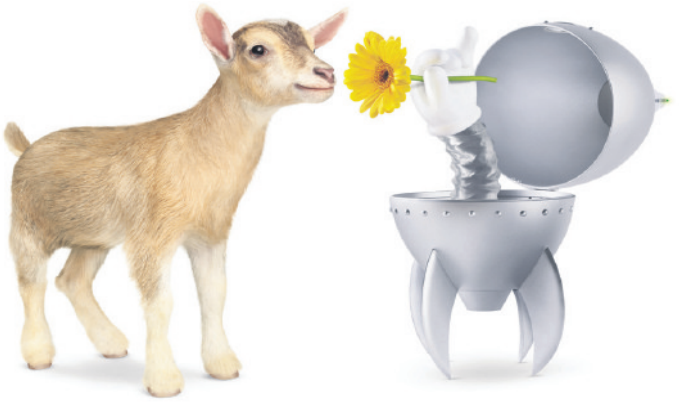

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At a glance
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕, The Blind Side ⊕⊕⊕½, Collapse ⊕⊕⊕, Planet 51 ⊕⊕, The Twilight Saga: New Moon ⊕⊕⊕, Prom Night in Mississippi ⊕⊕⊕½, Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day ⊕⊕⊕½, Amreeka ⊕⊕⊕½

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

A Moon to swoon

The Twilight Saga: **New Moon**

Director: Chris Weitz
Stars: Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

From left, Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner star in The Twilight Saga: New Moon.

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

No matter how this review of New Moon ends, whether this critic loves or loathes the film, is irrelevant. If you're one of the legion of "Twi-Hards," you'll be stepping on heads to see it this weekend anyway.

Nevertheless, Chris Weitz's eagerly anticipated follow-up to Catherine Hardwicke's blockbuster vampire epic Twilight isn't half bad: It's a faithful, swoony, sweaty palmed teen-centric fantasy circus that knows exactly what its fervent fanbase demands and delivers those goods by the coffin load.

New Moon (based on the same named novel by series founder Stephenie Meyer) picks up shortly after the dramatic events of Twilight left off, with mortal high-school misfit Bella (Kristen Stewart) going steady with hunky vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) — dangers be damned.

But when a cut finger awakens the bloodlust in the Cullen clan, Edward flees, leaving his human muse to the affections of über-buff werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) resulting in more heartache and PG-level horror.

New Moon isn't Shakespeare by any stretch (though Romeo and Juliet does figure rather heavy handedly into the narrative) but it is commendably hardcore in its single-minded drive to please its mostly female audience.

It's positively filled to the bursting point with doe-eyed romance, heavy petting, dreamy dialogue and shirtless werewolves (at the screening I attended, a chorus of young women sighed in unison every time Lautner doffed his duds, which was often).

But even if a supernatural soap opera isn't your thing, New Moon contains some dazzling imagery and action sequences that are simply beautiful to behold.

An extended set piece involving Bella, her vampiric nemesis Victoria (Rachelle Lefevre), and a heroic werewolf is driven by the hypnotic rhythm of Radiohead; its fluid CGI trickery and mild ferocity absolutely spellbinding in their design.

Same goes for the pulpy climax, where real deal actors Michael Sheen (Frost/Nixon) and Dakota Fanning (War of the Worlds) embody designer evil as the leaders of the dreaded Volturi.

If New Moon has any real flaws, they're certainly no fault of the filmmakers. Meyer's novel was ultimately a bridge, the mid chapter of a quartet that serves to set up the sting of Eclipse (the film version of which is currently in post-production) and the climax of Breaking Dawn. But New Moon is effective and it not only honours its source, it also does what the first film couldn't quite achieve: It etches out an identity of its own.

m.metronews.ca

To read an exclusive interview with Twilight star Nikki Reed, visit metronews.ca, or scan this barcode.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

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Luhrmann honoured Down Under

Baz Luhrmann has been honoured in his native Australia for his contribution to the country's film industry. The Moulin Rouge moviemaker was handed the Living Legend trophy at the Inside Film Awards on Tuesday night. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Overnight stars don't have it easy

Last year Gabby Sidibe was a full-time psychology student and part-time customer service representative. This year she's likely to be an Academy Award nominee.

Her breakout role in Precious has made her the very definition of an overnight star.

"I'm just a girl from Harlem who ended up in the right place at the right time," she says.

Director Lee Daniels saw 400 other girls for role of the illiterate teen, but despite Sidibe's "absolute belief that I wasn't going to get it" she became the latest in a string of unknowns to make the leap from obscurity to the pages of Entertainment Weekly.

Sidibe is enjoying the ride, making the rounds of talk shows and walking red carpets, but not every new star adjusts to fame as easily.

Jean Seberg is best remembered for the tabloid aspects of her life — the FBI investigation into her Black Panthers connection and multiple suicide attempts — but she was a great actress whose legacy includes Jean-Luc Godard's classic Breathless.

Like Sidibe, Seberg was catapulted to stardom by beating out 18,000 other hopefuls to win the lead in a film, but unlike the Precious star, Seberg had a rocky ride. During the filming of 1957's Saint Joan she was literally lit on fire during one scene and later, when the film flopped, took the brunt of the blame. Seberg killed herself in 1979.

Gabby Sidibe has become a sensation following her breakout role in Precious.

Australian model George Lazenby surprised everyone when he replaced Sean Connery in the Bond series, starring in 1968's On Her Majesty's Secret Service.

"When I became famous I didn't know how to handle it," he said, "so it almost drove me crazy." He quit (or was fired, depending on who you ask) after just one turn as Bond, a move he's regretted ever since. "Without any doubt I should have gone back to do at least one more."

"I'm just a girl from Harlem who ended up in the right place at the right time."
Gabby Sidibe

Lazenby has become a benchmark on how not to manage a career, but even George seems successful compared to the stars of Zabriskie Point, a 1970 film that turned unknowns Daria Halprin and Mark Frechette into knowns — for a short time anyway. Halprin only made one more film and Frechette died five years later in prison.

If these cautionary tales of sudden fame weigh on Gabby's mind, she's not letting on. "I just want to do things that make me happy," she says. "I just want to go as far as I can."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

White dating Penn
Jessica White has confirmed she and movie star Sean Penn were briefly dating — but now they're just friends. The stunner was romantically linked to Penn after he split from his wife Robin Wright earlier this year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Director Troy Duffy adds more testosterone and guns in the sequel to Boondock Saints.

Saints action overkill

Boondock Saints 2:
All Saints Day

Director: Troy Duffy
Stars: Norman Reedus, Sean Patrick Flannery
Classification: STC
Rating: ●½

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Watching Troy Duffy's mind numbing sequel to his cult hit Boondock Saints is akin to being battered across the face with a raw steak for two interminable hours.

This obnoxiously macho, ultraviolent (and unpleasantly homophobic) bit of smarmy gun porn might please devotees of Duffy's equally vulgar — but far more fun — 1999 original, but all others might just find themselves choking on the sheer overload of aimless testosterone.

Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day picks up 10 years after the original ended, with deranged, devoutly Catholic Irish brothers/assassins Murphy (Norman Reedus) and Connor (Sean Patrick Flannery) McManus called out of exile in Ireland to go after the Boston-based scumbags that murdered a priest and pinned it on them.

As the lads reconnect with their old crew and pick up an enthusiastic Mexican sidekick (Crank 2's Clifton Collins Jr.), tons of bullets meet blood-spattered bones, and even more sexist and moronic barbs are exchanged.

For all its fetish-filled, slow motion action, patience trying flashback sequences and puffed chest bravado, this is really dull stuff. Turns from the great Billy Connelly as the boys' killer-with-a heart-of gold dad and a weird cameo from Peter Fonda are welcome but do little to add interest.

On the plus side, it's great to see a filmmaker who appreciates the ever sexy Julie Benz (TV's Dexter) and doesn't just chuck her into the "suffering woman" sidelines she's usually relegated to (see Rambo, Punisher: War Zone, Saw V etc for typically wasted roles).

Dark side of Prom Night in Mississippi

Prom Night in
Mississippi

Director: Paul Saltzman
Stars: Morgan Freeman
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

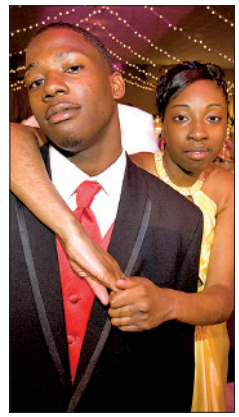
When I have mentioned its title, countless people have told me Prom Night in Mississippi sounds like a horror movie. And in a way, it is.

After all, when Canadian filmmaker Paul Saltzman discovered that a high school in the American South still had racially-segregated proms in 2008, he was shocked enough to enlist actor and local resident Morgan Freeman to pitch the institute an offer they couldn't refuse — integrate the prom and he'll pay.

From there, the intriguing documentary follows a selection of students and a few parents as they spend the next four months preparing for the auspicious event. But not everyone is pleased. Some students willingly back out while a group of parents plan a separate whites-only prom.

It's an eye-opening documentary that pulls the curtain back on the repressed racism that still weighs heavy on America and more shockingly, on the influence of the young. While Saltzman keeps it positive and hopeful, Prom Night definitely could've used a more rounded field of subjects — namely those racists who, he admits, wouldn't give him the time of day.

Still, Saltzman's movie is thoughtful, intimate and even judicious. While recent reports have shown that American schools are actually becoming less racially integrated, one can only hope Prom Night in Mississippi will be a horror film that does not require a sequel.



Prom Night in Mississippi explores the repressed racism that still weighs heavy on America.

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Facinelli Pattinson's wingman

He may play Robert Pattinson's vampire dad in the Twilight movies — but in real life, Peter Facinelli is more his wingman. "People always come up to me say, 'Oh my god ... can you give this letter to Rob?'" he tells Women's Health. **PEOPLE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

More like boring Side

The Blind **Side**

Director: John Lee Hancock
Stars: Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

About what feels like it should be three quarters of the way through The Blind Side, massive, mild-mannered football phenomenon Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) finally takes the field in the movie's only showcase of the high school football it spends a fair amount of time discussing.

(It's not until the movie finally ends that you realize that sequence was more like halfway through.)

It's an exciting scene, filled with enough tension and emotion to make even the football-phobic sit up and take notice.

But that's just one scene.

After that, it's back to the tale of Oher being adopted by Leigh Anne (Sandra Bullock) and Sean Touhy (Tim McGraw), wealthy, white parents who open their home to poor, black Oher after he's granted a free ride to their biological children's private school.

The problem is, for all the built-in drama of the true story with a very happy ending (Oher was drafted to the Baltimore Ravens, playing his first season with the team this year), the end product is long, boring and entirely too self-congratulatory on the adoptive parents' part.

After watching Aaron's portrayal of Oher — completely accurate, by all accounts — what would be remarkable is anyone not wanting to help such a kind, lovable young man once they've met him.

Quinton Aaron, centre, and Sandra Bullock star in The Blind Side.

Newcomer Aaron does a commendable job with what little he's given to work with, doing his best to showcase a young man determined not to let the shortcomings of the hand he was dealt stop him from being a good person.

But, his role is mostly reduced to a prop for Bullock's Leigh Anne, a gaudy, scenery-chewing spitfire of a woman.

After watching her stomp around for 126 minutes lecturing everyone around her in an ever-shifting accent, a nice game of football would be very welcome.

• For The Blind Side photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Unusual mix of art and mainstream

Bad Lieutenant: Port **of Call New Orleans**

Director: Werner Herzog
Stars: Nicolas Cage
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The big screen marriage of Hollywood heavyweight Nicolas Cage and German arthouse eccentric Werner Herzog may seem odd on paper, but the final product is even odder, a joyous wallow in pulp excess that stands alone.

Borrowing part of the name and theme of Abel Ferrara's bizarro 1992 existential exploitation film (that boasted the most unhinged and hair raising of Harvey Keitel's performances), Herzog's Bad Lieutenant is hypnotic, violent and occasionally, laugh out loud hilarious.

Cage stars as Lt. Terence McDonagh, a cop who already treads the line of corruption and bad taste until a horrific drug-related massacre — and a bout of agonizing back pain — sends him spiraling into a vortex of substance-soaked self medication and generally hideous, antisocial behaviour.

Although on the surface, Bad Lieutenant may seem like Herzog lite, the very fact that film is trying to pass itself off as something even marginally mainstream makes it perhaps the most offbeat work in the director's oeuvre.

The movie is certainly filled with that meditative eeriness, that tongue-in-cheek depravity and uncomfortable beauty that defines the best of Herzog but watching the filmmaker trying to squeeze those sensibilities into a conventional thriller model is nothing short of dizzying and will no doubt prove trying to tamer viewers.

Those cynical cineastes who have written off Cage as a blockbuster baiting hack need to go back into the vaults and revisit the actors defining, early work. Fare like Vampire's Kiss, David Lynch's Wild at Heart and Raising Arizona showed that when a filmmaker gives Cage the right material, and stands well back, he can burn the screen up with operatic aplomb.

"I don't even like to
HAVE SEX
AND
EAT BACON
for six hours."
ACT 1; SCENE 8

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Adams wearing producer's hat

Amy Adams is turning producer on her next project. The Julie and Julia star is clearly fan enough of Adena Halpern's novel My Ten Best Days that she wants to oversee its journey to the screen. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Collapse a look at the doomsday prophet

Collapse

Director: Chris Smith
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

FILM Although it would seem to fit snugly within the recent cycle of sky-is-falling documentaries (An Inconvenient Truth, The End of the Line) and features (The Road), Chris Smith's Collapse distinguishes itself by focusing more intently on Chicken Little.

Its subject, Michael C. Ruppert, is a former LAPD officer turned whistleblower-cum-conspiracy-theorist peddling an apocalypse-soon spiel to all corners of the blogosphere.

To summarize his position, everything that's happened in the United States in the past 30 years or so can be viewed as a harbinger of total, unified doom, and to be sure, much of Collapse's fascination derives from the urgency and terse eloquence of Ruppert's contemporary Nostradamus act. At times, he manages to make associations and links between events that could give even a skeptical viewer pause.

But Smith isn't simply crafting a showcase: the film's intense visual focus and marked lack of other, contrary voices subtly indicate that Collapse is also a film about the causes and effects of extreme and obsessive solipsism. In this way, it becomes an intriguing companion piece to the director's earlier American Movie, which also managed to indulge an eccentric, blinkered subject while maintaining a distinct sense of distance.

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JOE MORGENSTERN, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
"KEEPS YOU BEAMING WITH PLEASURE."

BETSY SHARKEY, LOS ANGELES TIMES
"IT'S HARD NOT TO FEEL THE LOVE."

CAPONE, AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
"HILARIOUS! GREAT FUN!"

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Neill joins Snyder film
Sam Neill has signed up to join Zack Snyder's animated film Guardians of Ga'Hoole, currently in production in Sydney. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Dwayne Johnson and Justin Long lend their voices to two of Planet 51's lead characters.

Weak storyline mars Planet 51

Planet 51

Director: Jorge Blanco, Javier Abad, Marcos Martinez
Stars: Dwayne Johnson, Justin Long
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Planet 51, the latest in this year's long line of computer-animated movies, suffers from its own false advertising.

The trailers, commercials and posters popping up over the past month have alluded to a novel tale about a U.S. astronaut (voiced by Dwayne Johnson) landing on a new planet and being greeted as a hideous alien monster by the little green men who inhabit it.

That story is in the film, to be sure, but it's in no way the focus.

Instead, Planet 51 focuses on the little green men, particularly, a plucky but confidence-deficient teen named Lem (voiced by the ubiquitous Justin Long), who is awkward but well-intentioned and has trouble verbalizing his affections for his comely neighbour, Neera (Jessica Biel).

The alien astronaut is reduced to a mere device to push Lem out of his comfort zone, boost his confidence and teach him all the lessons he obviously has to learn. It's a story we've seen countless times before.

The first feature from Spain's Ilion Animation, Planet 51 is visually fantastic, the animation a new benchmark for the genre. It's just a shame the story can't match up. The primary conceit of the film's alien world is that it very much resembles America in the 1950s — or a least a reductionist, caricature view of America in the 1950s.

Except the filmmakers can't even keep their decades straight, as all the bobby socks and Father Knows Best sensibility coexist with some very 1960s hippie activists.

The panic over the perceived invasion naturally leads to a bucketload of homages to 1950s B-movies. Only, those movies were referenced and lampoons to much greater effect already in last Spring's Monsters vs. Aliens.

The only difference here is the role reversal, which needs a lot more meat behind it to sustain a whole feature film.

• For Planet 51 photos, a trailer and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Festival | ATNY | Criterion | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 20 TO THURS., NOV. 26. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk (STC) Fri-Thu 1 Sat 7:30
Beavers (STC) Fri-Thu 11-3
Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:4 Fri-Sat
Van Gogh: Brush With Genius (STC) Fri-Thu 5 Fri 7:30

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

2012 (PG) Fri 7-10:15 Sat-Sun 3-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 7-10:15

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Coco Avant Chanel (French w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-6:50-9:05 Wed 1:30-4:30-6:50 Thu 1:30-4:30-6:50-9:05
An Education (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:15
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Wed-Thu 1:45-3:45-6-8-10
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Tue 2-4:50-7:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 2-4:50-9:30
A Serious Man (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:40-7:20-9:35 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:40-9:35
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Amelia (G) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat 1:20-4:10-6:40-9:15 Sun 1:20-9:15 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:15
Astro Boy (G) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-6:50 Mon-Wed 5:35
The Box (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Mon-Wed 8:10
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:45-7:05 Mon-Thu 5:30
Gentlemen Broncos (PG) Fri 6:55-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:3:55-6:55-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
Good Hair (PG) Fri-Sun 9:30 Mon-Thu 8:30
I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell (18A) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:40-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:20
Whip It (PG) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:7-9:05 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:35
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Sun 5
Zombieland (18A) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211

The Girl From Monaco (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Séraphine (G) Fri 9:15 Sat-Sun 3:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

2012 (PG) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri 8:30 DTS Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:45-8:30 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 4:45-8:30
The Blind Side (PG) DTS Digital Fri 7:15-10:15 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-7:15-10:15 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:10 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:10 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5-8

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456

Dim (STC) Mon 7:30
Magnificent Obsession (STC) Fri 9:35 Sun 7:15 Thu 9:15
The Mirror (STC) Sat 7:15 Wed 9:35 Thu 7:15
Mississippi Mermaid (STC) Fri 7:15 Sat 9:15

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Wed 4-7-9 Thu 4-9

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Prom Night in Mississippi (STC) Fri 4-7-9 Sat 2-4-7-9 Sun-Thu 4-7-9
Victoria Day (14A) A.M. Sun 10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film

The Room (STC) Fri 12
Showgirls (STC) Fri
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:20-7-9:40 Mon-Tue 7-9:40 Wed 12:30-7-9:40 Thu 7-9:40

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:40-7:20-10:45-11 No Passes Mon-Tue 12-3:40-7:20-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:40-7:20 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:50-10:30
Aida (Verdi) Metropolitan Opera - Encore Performance (STC) Sat 10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:50-7:15-9:45
Ichi (Japanese w/e.s.t.) (14A) Thu 7
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4-6:45-9:30 Thu 1:20-4-9:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri 1:40-4:10-7:40-10 Sat 4:10-7:40-10 Sun-Tue 1:40-4:10-7:40-10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-1:30-4:20-4:40-7:30-7:50-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05
The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 2:15-5:15-8:15
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:35-10:20
Couples Retreat (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:45-4:40-7:30-10:15
An Education (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:35-7:05-9:35
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:05-2:10-3:20-4:30-5:40-6:50-8-9:10-10:15
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:50-5:20-7:55-10:30
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:10
Pirate Radio (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-5:05-7:45-10:25
Planet 51 (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:30-4:55-7:10-9:30
The September Issue (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-3:25-5:35-7:50-10:10
Where the Wild Things Are (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:25-5:7:25-9:55

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour St., 604-683-Film

Collapse (STC) Fri 8:15 Sat 4:45-8:15 Sun 8:15 Mon 6:30
The Edge of the World (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Sun 5:30-8:45
Short Film Workshop With Ric Beairsto (STC) Sun

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313

2012 (PG) Fri 6:10-9:20 Sat-Sun 3-6:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-9:20

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri 6:40-7-9:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-1:50-4-4:20-6:40-7-9:15-9:40 Mon-Tue 6:40-7-9:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:15
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri 7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10-9:35
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:40
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:55
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Tue 7:10-9:30

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri 6:40-8:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-1-3:10-4:30-6:40-8:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-8:10
Aida (Verdi) Metropolitan Opera - Encore Performance (STC) Sat 10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:40
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri 7-9:40 Sat 3:40-7-9:40 Sun 12:30-3:40-7-9:40 Mon-Tue 7-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-7:10-9:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-12:40-3-3:30-6:30-7:10-9:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:10-9:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri 4:25-7:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:05-4:25-7:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:25-7:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri 4:05-7:10-9:35 Sat 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:35 Sun 1:15-4:05-7:10 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:10
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri 4:15-7:05-9:40 Sat 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:40 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05 Mon-Tue 4:15-7:05
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:15-7:10
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:05-7:05
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:10-7-9:30 Sat 1:10-4:10-7-9:30 Sun 1:10-4:10-7 Mon-Thu 4:10-7
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 4-4:20-6:55-7:20-9:50-10:15 No Passes Sat 1:1:25-4-4:20-6:55-7:20-9:50-10:15 No Passes Sun 1-1:25-4-4:20-6:55-7:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-4:20-6:55-7:20

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:40-2-3:30-4:20-6:30-7:10-8:10-9:25-10:45 No Passes Thu 12:40-2-3:30-4:20-6:30-8:10-9:25-10:45
Aida (Verdi) Metropolitan Opera - Encore Performance (STC) Sat 10
Astro Boy (G) Fri-Tue 1:15-3:55-6:40
The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-3:40-7:15-10:50 No Passes Thu 3:40-7:15-10:50
Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 12:50
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-4:05-7:40-10:35
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:20-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:35-2:20-4:50-7:15-9:55
The Fourth Kind (STC) Fri-Tue 9:30
Heer Ranjha (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-4:35-8:10
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri 12:20-4:25-7:35-10:30 Sat 4:25-7:35-10:30 Sun-Tue 12:20-4:25-7:35-10:30
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:05-9:50
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri-Sat 11:55-3:05-6:55-9:55 Sun 11:55-3:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 11:55-3:05-6:55-9:55
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:25-6:50-10:05
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:40-2:30-5-7:35-10:20
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri-Sat 3:20-6:50-9:35 Sun 6:50-9:35 Mon-Tue 3:20-6:50-9:35
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-4:10-7:25-10:40 Thu 4:10-7:25-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:30-10:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-12:15-1:30-3-3:45-4:30-6:35-7:7:45-9:45-10:15-11 No Passes Thu 11:30-12:15-1:30-3-3:45-4:30-6:30-7:7:45-9:45-10:15-11 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-4:7:30-10:45
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri-Tue 12:10
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Sun 5

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

2012 (PG) Fri 7-9:55 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:15-1-2:45-5-6:30-9-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:15-1-2:45-5-9-10:15
The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-6:55-9:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Mon-Tue 12-2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7:15-9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:45
Ichi (Japanese w/e.s.t.) (14A) Thu 7
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:35-6:35-9:25 Sun 12:10-6:35-9:25 Mon-Tue 12:10-3:35-6:35-9:25
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:20-4:30-7:35-10 Sun 11:50-2:20-4:30-10 Mon-Tue 11:50-2:20-4:30-7:35-10
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-3:30-7-9:50
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-9:50
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:45-4:7:30-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:35-2:40-6-9:20 No Passes Fri-Tue 11:45-12:15-3:3:30-6:45-7:10-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Astro Boy (G) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
The Box (PG) Fri 4-7-10 Sat 1-4-7-10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 4:30-7:30 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30 Sun 1:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Sat 10:10 Sun-Thu 7:10
The Fourth Kind (STC) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri 4:10-7:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10 Sun 1:10-4:10 Mon-Thu 4:10
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Sat 10:30 Sun-Thu 7:30

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-12:35-1:50-3:20-4:05-6:35-7:05-7:50-10:05-10:35
Aida (Verdi) Metropolitan Opera - Encore Performance (STC) Sat 10
Astro Boy (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:20-5:10-7:35
The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:40-10:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 11:30
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-7:35-10:25
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:45-7:05-9:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:15-4:55-7:30-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:50-2:20-5:10-7:35-10:05
The Fourth Kind (STC) Fri-Tue 4:40-7:35-10:20
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-7:15-10:10
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:15-7:45-10:40 Wed 4:15-7:45-10:40 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:45-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:15 Sat 3:50-7:20-10:15 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:35-10:20
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:15-9:55
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:45 Sun 1:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:45
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:40-9:55
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 11:40-2:10-4:30-7:15-9:50 Wed 4:30-7:15-9:50 Thu 11:40-2:10-4:30-7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:12:30-1:30-3:15-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:15-7:55-9:45-10:30-10:50 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri-Tue 1:40
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Sun 5
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Tue 10:55

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri-Thu 8:50
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Astro Boy (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG) Sat-Sun 12
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 8:10
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) Fri 6:30-8:45 Sat-Sun 2-6:30-8:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-8:45
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri-Thu 8:45
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri 4:30-6:45 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30-6:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:45

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:50-3:30-4:30-7-8-10:30
Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-4:20-7:40 Sun 12:35-9 Mon-Tue 12:35-4:20-7:40
The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-3:55-7:05-10:05 No Passes Wed 3:55-7:05-10:05 No Passes Thu 1-3:55-7:05-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:30-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:35-10:10
Heer Ranjha (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:50
Kurbaan (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:35-8:10
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4-6:50-9:35
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-3:35-6:55-9:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:55-9:30
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:10-7:40-9:55
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:50 Wed 4:55-7:25-9:50 Thu 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Sun 5

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

2012 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-3:5-6:45-9:10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-3-5-6:45-9-10:15
The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:15-10:20
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:15
Heer Ranjha (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:35-3:55-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:35-3:55-8
Ninja Assassin (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:05-9:25
Paranormal Activity (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:45-7:25-10:10
Pirate Radio (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45
Planet 51 (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-1-1:30-3:30-4:4:30-6:30-7:7:30-9:30-10:10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30
WWE: Survivor Series 2009 (STC) Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation, No Passes Sun 5

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterontheatres.com

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com

2012 (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:10-6:30-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:35
Planet 51 (G) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:20-7:15-9:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-9:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-7-9:30-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-2:30-6:45-7-9:30-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-7-9:30-9:40

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Billboard's top albums
1. The Circle, Bon Jovi; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Play On, Carrie Underwood; 4. Michael Jackson's This Is It, Michael Jackson; 5. Fearless, Taylor Swift. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Hedley preaches on worshiping false Idols

New album, The Show Must Go On, takes shots at reality TV, pokes fun at Hoggard's past

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

In Hedley's early days, lead singer Jacob Hoggard spent a lot of energy trying to make people forget that he ever appeared on Canadian Idol.

"There was a period where we worked as hard as we could to separate ourselves from the show," he says.

So it's a bit surprising that he'd revisit his Idol past on his new album, The Show Must Go On.

The track, Cha-Ching, pokes fun of all the major reality TV shows, from Survivor to the Biggest Loser.

But he saves some of the better barbs for himself — "Line up all the idols, who paint on phony smiles, tryin' to ride the fast track for free," he sings.

In the video he dresses up in a blue spandex outfit — it's a similar getup to what he wore during an Idol episode — and sings in front of three judges.

Jacob Hoggard says now is the perfect time to address his time on American Idol.

"It was time to bring it up and remind everyone of how lightly we take this," says Hoggard, explaining why he chose to make fun of the very thing that made him famous.

"This isn't some weird topic you shouldn't bring up to us."

Hoggard adds that now was the perfect time to sing about his reality TV days.

For one, the genre is far more outlandish than when he was vying for his 15 minutes, and after two albums that have gone platinum, the singer's not defined by Idol anymore, even though it remains a piece of their identity.

"We could get away with it because it's still a part of who we are," he says. "Plus, it's a commentary on how far people are willing to go in 2009."

The band has come a long way since Hoggard was on TV, but Hedley's new disc takes the band in a completely new direction.

For the most part, the band trades their power punk edge for sunnier mid-tempo pop.

Cha-Ching could be a track off a Smash Mouth album; Hands Up sounds a lot like an Aerosmith tune.

There are more introspective moments — Sweater Song (not a Weezer cover) is a soft and touching finger-picked number.

It's the best and most interesting track here.

"It's different and has a very unconventional pop song structure," says Hoggard about the tune.

The new sound is makes the singer a littler nervous, though he's always apprehensive around release dates.

"After you put so much time into something like there, there's so much stress," he says.

"But you have to hope for the best and know you did your due diligence and made the best record you could."

It's likely the disc will do well, so he doesn't have to worry about falling back on a reality television career.

But if he had to choose one show to be on it might be his favourite program: Wife Swap.

"The British version," he clarifies.

"They get to smoke all the time."

Hedley's new album is in stores now

'Devil be damned,' Rob Halford tries his hand at rock of another variety

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Unmistakable with his scorching voice, leather outfits and many tattoos, Rob Halford is known best as the front man for loud music veterans Judas Priest.

Get ready for a shock though. You're about to see this heavy metal hero in a very different light: Christmas caroller.

Yes, the Metal God — a long-standing nickname bestowed upon Halford for his iconic vocal styling and indelible impact on the world of hard and heavy music over the past 30-plus years — has just released a tertiary full-length with his eponymous backing band and it's a holiday album. Consider it his festive gift to headbangers the world 'round.

There will be no satanic verses in Rob Halford's renditions of We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful on his Dubbed Winter Songs.

"I love Christmas time," admits the 58-year-old with a soft-tone that belies his reverence as one of metal's most brazen/dynamic voices.

"I think most of us do. It's a special time. We enjoy being with family and friends, exchanging gifts, drinking and eating food. It's a beautiful time that we have together."

Dubbed Winter Songs (Metal God Records), the 10-track affair is a commingling of holiday standards such as We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful with original compositions (Get Into The Spirit, Christmas Is For Everyone) delivered as one would expect: via blazing guitars, pounding, hyperactive drums and mind-melting solos. And while it may seem to come from out of the blue, it's an idea Halford has been toying with for years.

"I'm very happy to have been able to fulfill something I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember. It's always been in the back of my mind: wouldn't it be great if we had a bit more music to listen to and music in the style I'm associated with. Yet I waited (to do it) for multiple reasons. Is this a daring thing to do? Is it the right thing to do? How is it gonna sound? What's the journey gonna be like to make this happen? I think a lot of things through in many ways and considered all of the possibilities but when I come to a conclusion, I can be very stubborn. I'll do it, devil be damned."

Yes, Winter Songs would surprise even Beelzebub himself but it's no slouch. Since its Nov. 3 release date, initial shock has worn off and it is being duly heaped with accolades for sincerity, depth and unyielding metal.

"That's a great way to describe it," the obstinate Brit commends before alluding to a possible sequel. "It's a concise way to describe what I was hoping to achieve with this.

The initial response has been encouraging. (Fans have) said, 'Thank God we've got something for this time of year to listen to in our own style ... that we enjoy.' I had so much fun making this record, I could even go for another batch."

Music

Crooked as they come

Them Crooked Vultures' anticipated first album lands

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Them Crooked Vulture's released their first album this week.

The world HQ for Them Crooked Vultures hides in plain sight: an anonymous building on an ordinary street in Burbank.

It's only after you step inside that you realize that it's as fortified as a North Korean bunker. That Bob Hope Airport is a short walk away is a good thing, given the private jet requirements of the band.

This is Pink Duck Studios, Josh Homme's playground, a studio where Queens of the Stone Age and Eagles of Death Metal albums take shape and also where he worked on the material he produced for the Arctic Monkeys' Humbug album. The main room of the studio also serves as TCV's rehearsal space.

The amount of gear is staggering. I have a half-hour audience with all three members before band practice. Josh takes his seat in the main control room chair. Dave Grohl flops face down into some pillows on the sectional next to me. Meanwhile, John Paul Jones — the quiet one in Led Zeppelin — is true to form, content to let his bandmates do all the kibitzing as he eases into the chair he's brought from another room. He sets himself up between the two. "This is my spot," he says.

Although the idea of TCV first surfaced years ago, it only became reality this past January when JPJ suddenly found himself with some free time.

"I'd spent quite a few months rehearsing with Jimmy (Page) and Jason (Bonham) trying to form a new band that wasn't going to be called Led Zeppelin," says JPJ, "and it was just coming to an end when Dave mentioned this idea."

"It just sort of fell together," says Homme.

"This is the kind of thing that if you don't grab it by the neck and run with it, it'll just turn to vapour."

Dave chimes in.

"I wanted to be musical and be home at the same time. The last thing I wanted to do was start another band and go back out on the road. I thought we could just play in the studio and make something good. I honestly didn't imagine we'd be doing this."

But now that they've started something, now what? How far can they take this? Dave props himself up against some pillows on the sectional. A big grin spreads across his face. "As far as it will go."

Want more?

- You can hear the whole interview at ExploreMusic.com

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EVOLVING 10

1 Glory - You Say Party! We Say Die!
2 Hell - Tegan and Sara
3 Got Nuffin' - Spoon
4 Horchata - Vampire Weekend
5 Last Parade - Matthew Good
6 Dangerous Animals - Arctic Monkey's
7 Castles - Magenta Lane
8 Forces of Nature - Pearl Jam
9 Undisclosed Desires - Muse
10 Black Ice - Ohbijou

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2010 Emmys to be held a month earlier

NBC announced it will broadcast the 62nd annual Primetime Emmy Awards in August 2010, instead of mid-September, as it usually does, in order to avoid scheduling conflicts with Sunday Night Football. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

Series shines spotlight on Steeltown

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

It doesn't happen too often, but Hamilton actually gets to play itself in the new Showcase series Cra$h & Burn.

"It's rather unapologetically Hamilton," says actress Caroline Cave, who plays company lawyer Catherine Scott in the ensemble show about the ruthless insurance game. "It really gives Hamilton a personality, which it always had, but maybe it doesn't get a chance to show all the time."

The series, created by Malcolm MacRury (ZOS: Zone of Separation), and starring Luke Kirby (Slings and Arrows), has a lot of unique aspects beyond its backdrop. First, it's a show about the world of insurance, which raises the question: Who wants to watch that?

Most folks probably want to avoid the topic of insurance altogether.

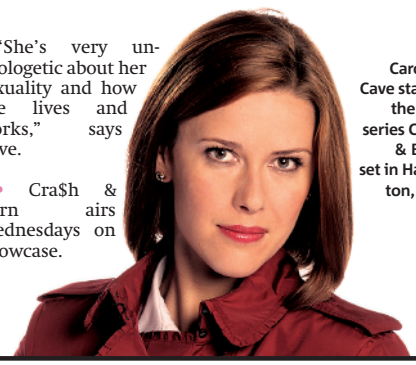
But, as portrayed in Cra$h & Burn, a day in the life of insurance adjuster Jimmy Burn (Kirby) can get pretty exciting. It involves not only shifty clients, but also crooked lawyers and the Russian mob.

Back at the office, there's also a tote board that keeps a running score on who's been fired — and who's about to be. Add some sex and comedy, and it's quite a dramatic stew.

"It's not really a comedy or a drama," explains Cave. "Malcolm is always throwing the unexpected at us, and the characters are complex. Although her character comes off rather cold in the premiere episode, not everything is what it seems.

"She's very unapologetic about her sexuality and how she lives and works," says Cave.

• Cra$h & Burn airs Wednesdays on Showcase.



Caroline Cave stars in the new series Cra$h & Burn, set in Hamilton, Ont.

FRIDAY 11/20/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James	Rick Mercer	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Shrek the Third ★★ (2007) Voices of Mike Myers. (CC)				Flashpoint (CC)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Guard "Lovesick" (CC)		Bones (PA) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Con Job" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Law & Order "Shotgun" (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Royal Pains (CC)		Royal Pains (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Pandora" (N)		Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Con Job" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order "Shotgun" (N)		Dateline NBC (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Shrek the Third ★★ (2007) Voices of Mike Myers. (CC)				20/20 Sarah Palin. (N) (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "Painless" (PA) (CC)		Bones (PA) (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	Up Against the Wall (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Up Against the Wall (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Vancouver Canucks. (Live)					Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	Hockey	SportsCentre	Off-Record	Golf Kiwi Challenge -- Day 2. From New Zealand. (Taped)				SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	SpongeBob SquarePants "Truth or Square"		SpongeBob		Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	Sorry	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	The Phantom ★★ (1996, Action) Billy Zane.		
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Battlefield Mysteries (CC)		Poirot (N) (CC)		New Tricks (N) (CC)		The Fog of War ★★★ (2003) Premiere.		
	575	583	20 CMT	George Strait: ACM Artist of the Decade All Star Concert				Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	How Great Thou Art Grand Ole Opry.		
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Normal"		CSI: Miami "Wrecking Crew"		(:01) Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	24 TLC	Happily Ever	Happily Ever	Dress	Dress	Happily Ever	Happily Ever	Dress	Dress	Dress
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny	Kenny	Law & Order: UK "Care"		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Mean Girls ★★★		(:10) Secondhand Lions ★★★ (2003) (PA) Michael Caine.				(:10) Mars Attacks! ★★ (1996, Comedy)		
	603	561	69 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	35 AMC	The She Creature ★ (1956) Chester Morris.				(:45) House on Haunted Hill ★ (1999) Geoffrey Rush. (CC)			(:45) The She Creature ★	
	320	621	30 CEN	(6:30) Paul Blart: Mall Cop		Obsessed ★ (2009, Suspense) Idris Elba. Premiere. (CC)				(9:50) Fool's Gold ★ (2008, Action) (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	OverBolts	The Hills	Peak Season	After

SATURDAY 11/21/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) (CC)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	W5 Multiple sclerosis. (N)		The Mentalist "Bloodshot"		Law & Order (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	Project Runway Canada		Mom, Dad and Her (2008, Drama) Melora Hardin. (CC)				News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Whistler (CC) (DVS)		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	My RONA Home (CC)		Glenn Martin	Out There	Snakehead Terror ★★ (2004) Bruce Boxleitner. (CC)				Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smash Cuts	Smash Cuts	The Hills	The Hills	CSI: NY "Dead Inside" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		The Mentalist "Bloodshot"		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Mercy (CC)		Law & Order (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	(5:00) College Football Regional Coverage.			NASCAR	Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Brian McKnight Show		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Lords of the Gourd (CC)		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Lords of the Gourd (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	English Premier League Soccer				Top 50 Sports Bloopers		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	Boxing: Rumble at Rama X				SportsCentre	30 for 30 (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Sorry	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Ben 10: Race Against Time (2007) (CC)			Ben 10: Alien	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel (N)
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders The owner of Midsomer Life magazine.				Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	(6:00) Walk the Line ★★★ (2005) Joaquin Phoenix.				Walk the Line ★★★ (2005) Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon.				
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "CSI: My Nanny"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	24 TLC	Lottery Changed My Life III		Lottery Changed My Life		Lottery Changed My Life		Lottery Changed My Life III		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39 SHO	The Guard "Live Free"		Summer House (2008, Suspense) Lindsay Price. (CC)				The Brave One ★★ (2007) Jodie Foster.		
	294	650	47 TBS	(:15) Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat ★★ (2003) (PA) (CC)				The Last Mimzy ★★ (2007) (PA) Joely Richardson. (CC)				Terabithia
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		The F Word (CC)		Challenge Chocolate art.		Chopped (CC)		Chef: Vegas
	-	-	35 AMC	(5:00) Aliens ★★★★ (1986)		Alien 3 ★★★ (1992) Sigourney Weaver, Charles S. Dutton. (CC)					Alien Resurrection ★★ (CC)	
	320	621	30 CEN	(5:50) The Great Debaters		Frost/Nixon ★★★ (2008) Frank Langella. Premiere.				No Country for Old Men ★★★ (2007) (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	After	After	After	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 11/22/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland "The Fix" (N)		Figure Skating		The Nature of Things (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Degrassi	Degrassi	The Amazing Race 15 (N)		The Mentalist (CC)		Cold Case "Chinatown" (N)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	Amer Dad	House "Last Resort" (CC)		News Final
	256	389	12 VI	Next Top Model		2009 American Music Awards (Same-day Tape) (CC)						New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC)		Mercy (CC)		My RONA Home		Conviction Kitchen		Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 15 (N)		Cold Case "Chinatown" (N)		Three Rivers (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	NFL Football: Eagles at Bears			The Jim Mora	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		2009 American Music Awards (Same-day Tape) (CC)						News
	290	382	23 FOX	Brothers (N)	Simpsons	Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	Orgasm Inc. (2009, Documentary) (CC)			Issue	CBC News: The National (N)		Orgasm Inc. (2009, Documentary) (CC)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of the Union		Union
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Vancouver Canucks. (Live)					Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Eagles at Bears				SportsCentre (Live) (CC)	NFL Films	OverBolts	Motoring	SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Nanny McPhee ★★		SpongeBob	Family Biz (N)	Smallville "Bride" (CC)		Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell	Rick & Steve	John
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Touch of Frost A man's body is found in Denton canal.				New Tricks (CC)		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Tuckerville	Tuckerville	Funniest Home Videos		Wilsons	Wilsons	Cheer Moms
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "Resurrection"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	24 TLC	Rebuilding Faces (N) (CC)		Little Parent		Little Parents, First Baby		Rebuilding Faces (CC)		Small People
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn (CC)		You Belong to Me (2008) Shannon Elizabeth. (CC)				Weeds (N)	Found.	Kenny
	294	650	47 TBS	(:15) Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat ★★ (2003) (CC)				Home Alone 3 ★ (1997) Alex D. Linz, Olek Krupa. (CC)				Big Fat Liar
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Get on Plate	Food	Jamie's Ministry of Food		Jamie's Food
	-	-	35 AMC	The Prisoner "Arrival; Harmony"				The Prisoner "Arrival; Harmony" (CC)				Raising Cain
	320	621	30 CEN	(:10) 88 Minutes ★ (2007) Al Pacino, Alicia Witt. (CC)				Dexter "Hungry Man" (N)		Yes Man ★★ (2008, Comedy) Jim Carrey.		
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		OverBolts	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Road Rules		OverBolts

Dancing queen set to start tour

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Since winning top honours on So You Think You Can Dance Canada in October, Tara-Jean Popowich has been on quite a ride. Though not in her own car.

"I've been so busy. My new car is still sitting in my driveway at home, teasing me," says Popowich, who won the car and $100,000, along with the title of SYTYCD-Canada's top dancer. "But it's good. I'm having fun."

She has found a little spare time to put a dent in that prize money. She paid off her mother's mortgage, helped out on her brother's tuition, and bought herself a computer. "I invested the rest of it, so it's a bit like I'm still living like I never won."

Tara-Jean Popowich

For the Lethbridge, Alta.-native, doing what she loves includes an 18-city, SYTYCD cross-country tour. Kicking off in Kelowna, B.C. on Wednesday, the production will feature the top ten finalists from the second season. "It's going to feature all the season faves, plus some new choreography. It's very exciting and entertaining."

Popowich, 20, admits there's one stop on the tour she's particularly excited about — the one in her hometown on Nov. 29. And her future? Popowich's longterm plans call for dancing and more dancing. "I want to continue to teach dance and perform. You know, dance as long as I can. Dance 'til the body finally falls apart."

With auditions already starting for the third season of SYTYCD Canada, Popowich has some straightforward advice for those seeking her crown. "Don't think of it as a competition ... And stay confident. The judges will pick up on that."

"I want to continue to teach dance and perform. You know, dance as long as I can. Dance till the body finally falls apart."
Tara-Jean Popowich on her plans for life after So You Think You Can Dance Canada

SYTYCD

News

• Two hoofers from So You Think You Can Dance Canada will perform with Janet Jackson at this Sunday's American Music Awards. Nico Archambault and Natalli Reznik will open the show.

Tour dates

• The SYTYCD-Canada tour begins Wednesday in Kelowna, B.C. Stops include Edmonton (Nov. 30), Toronto (Dec. 10), Montreal (Dec.15), and Halifax (Dec. 22).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conrad to pen style tome
She's a successful TV star, fashion designer and fiction writer, but she hasn't written a book on style — until now. Lauren Conrad will unveil her top style tips in Lauren Conrad Style, to be published by Harper Collins in the fall of 2010. **PEOPLE.COM**

Going Out

Mix of Six

Ninja Assassin movie release
When: Friday, 9 p.m.
Where: Tunnel, 622 West Pender St.

Tunnel will be transformed into a Shanghai massage parlour for the movie release party of Ninja Assassin. DJs Physik and The Goodfellas will be spinning hip-hop, R&B, reggae and Top 40 music.

Cover is free before 11:30 p.m. if you wear black and red. Info: email info@entertunnel.com.

Moulin Rouge – The Ballet
When: Nov. 19-22, 8 p.m.
Where: The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts

The Moulin Rouge, made famous by Baz Luhrmann's cinematic spectacle of the same name, comes to life on the stage in this telling of a love triangle gone wrong.

Presented by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the company is in town for a five-performance engagement.

Ravishing Beasts
When: Saturday
Where: Museum of Vancouver

Love stuffed animals? No, really. Actual animals that have been stuffed, preserved and put on display.

If so, this exhibit, which explores "the provocative and strangely alluring world of taxidermy," is for you. Info: museumofvancouver.ca.

MAKE IT!
When: Friday to Sunday
Where: Croatian Cultural Centre, 32350 Commercial Drive

The largest handmade gifts craft fair in Western Canada features nearly 100 local designers and artists. Booths include funky and innovative clothing, jewelry, art and home décor.

DJs will be spinning urban beats in the background. Tix: $5. Info: makeitvancouver.com.

Family Fuse Weekend
When: Saturday and Sunday
Where: Vancouver Art Gallery

The VAG will be turned over to families for one of the biggest kid-oriented art events in the country.

There will be activities and performances bursting from spaces throughout the building, during two days of innovative and engaging art fun, with free admission for children 12 and under. Info: vanartgallery.bc.ca.

Eastside Culture Crawl
When: Saturday and Sunday
Where: Various Locations

More than 50 studios are opening their doors for this 13th annual showcase of exceptional, one-of-a-kind works by local jewelers, painters, glassblowers, furniture makers, sculptors and other artists. Make sure you come out. Info: eastsideculturecrawl.com.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Assassin's Creed II
GAME Immerse yourself in Renaissance-era Italy for some art — the art of killing, that is. Montreal-based Ubisoft's latest title revolves around an Italian nobleman-turned-assassin seeking revenge for the death of his father and brothers. Plenty of violence and thrills follow but one of the biggest attractions of the game are characters based on historical figures such as Leonardo da Vinci and Lorenzo di Medici

Entertainment in brief

LGBT Chaz Bono says beginning the sex-change process to turn him from a woman to a man is "the best decision I've ever made." The 40-year-old writer, activist and reality-TV star, who was born a girl to Sonny Bono and Cher, says he's eight months into the years-long transformation and says he has never felt better.

FASHION Campaigners against eating disorders criticized Kate Moss after the supermodel cited as her motto a phrase used on pro-anorexia websites. Asked her motto in an interview with website WWD, she replied that one of them was "nothing tastes as good as skinny feels."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 New Moon
FILM For those (and there are millions of them if advance ticket sales are any indicators) who get dizzy at the sight of vampires and werewolves professing puppy love to one human hottie, opening day of the Twilight sequel is Christmas, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day rolled into one. For the rest of us, there's still Halloween.

3 Sarah Palin
CELEBRITY On what planet does a vice-president wannabe become regular news fodder? Apparently on the one we live in. The former Alaska governor's latest headline-magnet is her memoir Going Rogue (released Tuesday), which has been sitting atop book charts for month. There are also reports of hundreds of fans lining up outside bookstores to meet Palin on her promotional tour across the U.S.

4 Kindle
GADGET It's here. Finally. This week, Amazon.com announced that the popular e-book reader - which is lighter than the average paperback, less than a centimetre thick and has a 15-centimetre screen - is now available in Canada, about six weeks after it launched internationally in more than 100 other countries. However, the $300-plus price tag may keep it off of many Christmas wish lists.

5 Funny People
DVD The trouble with Judd Apatow's first box-office dud is that it's not very funny. That doesn't mean it's not good. Critics and moviegoers were probably turned off by the dearth of mirth but the Knocked Up director trades easy laughs for emotional depth in this two-and-a-half-hour dramedy.

6 Songs 'N Smiles Sillytown
TOY New moms, note this down. This Fisher-Price toy has just been named the top battery-operated toy for 2010 by the Canadian Toy Testing Council. Aimed at babies aged six to 18 months, this multicoloured plaything feature a whole smorgasbord of peek-and-pop action blocks.

7 Jon and Kate Plus 8 series finale
TV The end is nigh. Come Monday, TLC will pull the plug on the show about the once-happy family that slowly imploded before our eyes. Reports say that the final episode will feature in-depth, but separate interviews from Jon and Kate Gosselin.

Entertainment

A powerful voice in the AIDS fight

Eurythmics singer Annie Lennox lends her support to help infected African kids

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

No woman does short hair or electropop better than Annie Lennox.

The Scottish singer has been an icon since shooting to fame with the Eurythmics two decades ago. The "Greatest White Soul Singer Alive" won a 2004 Academy Award for best original song.

This year she released The Annie Lennox Collection. But these days, Lennox's heart belongs less to Billboard charts and more to dying children. She campaigns on behalf of African children infected with AIDS. She talked exclusively with Metro.

Children's Rights

Q After more than two decades of awareness campaigns, why are so many African children dying of AIDS?

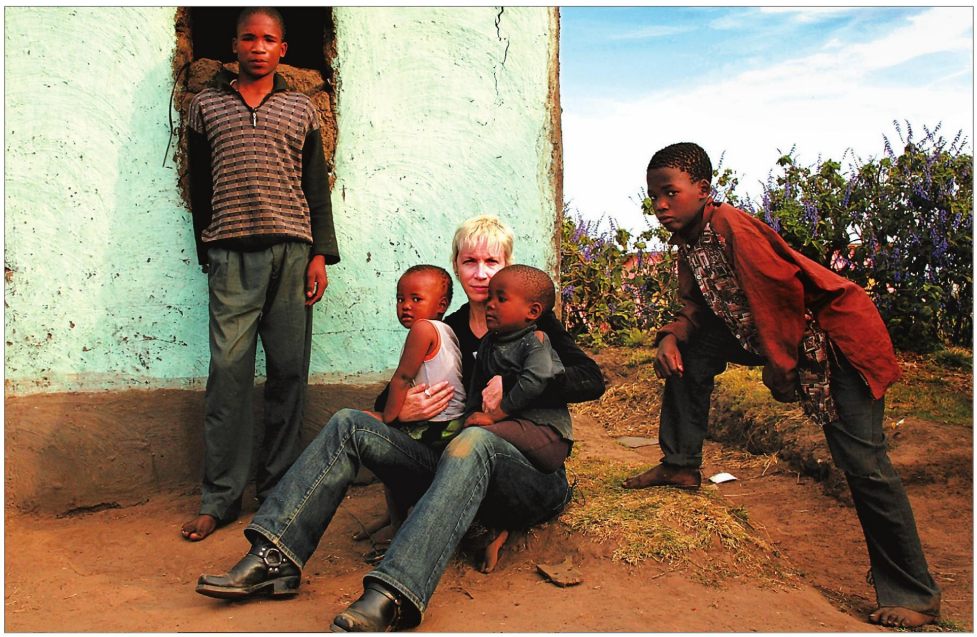
A If you have money, then you can always get access to medical care and treatment. But if you are poor it's a very different story, especially as health care systems in most African countries are completely inefficient and understaffed. On top of that, many people still don't really understand how people get infected by HIV.

Q Whose fault is it?

A Apart from warfare and natural disasters such as floods or droughts, very often chronic poverty has been caused by the fact that in the 20th and 21st century, leaders, governments and economic systems have not served the people well. Up till now, there has not been the necessary will to create essential change, so that when people are born into poverty, they're stuck there.

Q What's your reaction when South African politicians suggest AIDS can be cured with traditional medicines?

A During Tabo Mbeki's rule as president of South Africa, his health minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, advocated that AIDS could be treated with vitamins, garlic, lemon juice, beetroot and olive oil. It's shocking to think that a person in such an important position could take a stand like this. Many African people often mistrust Western medicine, and in any case it's not available or affordable to them, so they go to traditional healers. I would like people to have the opportunity to access medicine if they need it. It should be a personal decision, but many millions of people don't even have that option.



Annie Lennox, pictured with children in Africa. The Eurythmics frontwoman is campaigning on behalf of those infected with AIDS.

Annie facts

- Name: Annie Lennox
- Age: 54
- Background: Member of the successful duo Eurythimcs; subsequent solo career has earned her a Golden Globe and an Academy Award
- Family: Two teenage daughters
- In the news: Passionate advocate on behalf of AIDS-infected children in Africa.
- Website: annielennoxsing.com

Q How did AIDS among children become your biggest passion?

A I performed for the launch of Nelson Mandela's HIV/AIDS campaign in 2003, and afterward all the artists were invited to join him on Robben Island, where he had been imprisoned. Mandela described the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a "genocide" that was wiping out millions of lives, including women and children. That was the point when I sat up and really paid attention. Because we live in a celebrity-fixated culture, the deaths of millions of people through AIDS rarely hits the headlines. ...I felt that it is something I couldn't walk away from.

Q What can children in other countries do to help?

A I think the first step is to find out what HIV/AIDS is, how it's transmitted, and how it affects people's lives. That way you educate yourself and understand the difference between sharing a cup and sharing a needle!

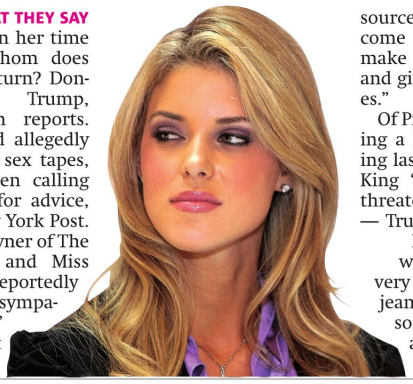
Dirty Dancing co-star still mourning Swayze
Jennifer Grey is still struggling with the death of Dirty Dancing co-star Patrick Swayze because she has only recently realised just how strong her feelings were for the actor/dancer, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Trump offers Prejean some free advice

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT KARMA In her time of crisis, to whom does Carrie Prejean turn? Donald Trump, usmagazine.com reports. De-crowned and allegedly tagged in eight sex tapes, Prejean has been calling up the mogul for advice, reports the New York Post.

Trump, the owner of The Miss Universe and Miss USA pageants reportedly isn't feeling too sympathetic. "Maybe," he told one Post source, "she should become a major porn star, make millions of dollars, and give it to worthy causes."



Of Prejean's conduct during a Larry King Live taping last week — she called King "inappropriate" and threatened to walk off set — Trump told Access Hollywood "I thought it was very strange and very sad, actually … (Prejean) is a person who sometimes behave inappropriately. It's a very sad situation."

Through her lawyer, Prejean has refused to comment on the growing sex tape controversy. Prejean previously said that the first sex tape to show up was "the biggest mistake of my life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan pals beg for rehab return

BUT SHE SAID NO, NO, NO Pals of Lindsay Lohan have been begging her to check into rehab for a fourth time, but the Mean Girls star isn't listening, according to OK! Magazine.

"She's been on a downward spiral for months," a source tells the magazine. "We ask, we beg, but she won't listen."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer is easily confused Katy Perry indulges her sweet tooth, depsite the consequences, and Neil Patrick Harris just makes it look easy.

• @johncmayer Just met Robert Pattinson, his wife Cheryl and two children Emily and Jason. They live in Taos, NM. Sweet little family.

• @katyperry Okay, I just ordered the biggest ice cream sunday in history. WHY? Cause it's SUNDAY and it looks RIDICULOUS. my butt is getting big just looking at it.

• @ActuallyNPH Filming dance numbers is taxing!! When watching at home, you forget there were 1,420 thousand takes.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Amy's leaky breasts?

MAKE THAT THREE LEAKY BOOBS Amy Winehoue has been hospitalized again, but this time it has nothing to do with drugs. The singer was reportedly admitted to a London hospital earlier this week due to possible complications from he recent breast augmentation surgery.

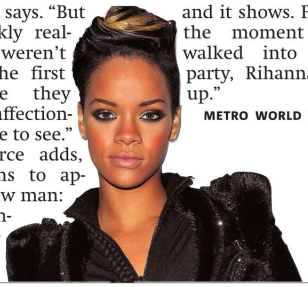
"She's fine, she just had a little leaky something or other," her dad, Mitch Winehouse, said during his Web show, pointing to his chest. Meanwhile, a source says that Amy "saw something oozing out of her top."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna's walk on the Wilds side?

GO 'HEAD GIRL Rihanna may be dating again, as she was seen spending time with 90210 star Tristan Wilds at a party at her house in Los Angeles and then again at a club in London just two days later, according to Gatecrasher.

"No one knew why Tristan was there initially, because it was not an industry party. It was very intimate," a source says. "But everyone quickly realized they weren't meeting for the first time, because they were openly affectionate for everyone to see."



And, the source adds, everyone seems to approve of the new man: "He's a real gentleman. She likes him a lot, and it shows. From the moment he walked into her party, Rihanna lit up."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Beckham's tan 'all natural' she claims

PISH POSH Victoria Beckham insists she doesn't use fake tan, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer-turned designer — who is rarely seen without bronzed skin — says her colour is due to living in sunny Los Angeles.

She said: "I don't self-tan anymore; it's frustrating when people criticize my colour. It's the colour that I am! I wear sunblock, but I live in a hot climate."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hills star Patridge has '*Glee*ful' evening

YAWN. OH, SORRY. WHAT DID YOU SAY? The Hills are alive with the sound of Glee? At Thursday's Us Weekly Hot Hollywood party at L.A. hotspot Voyeur, Audrina Patridge only had eyes for a brand-new bad boy: Mark Salling, the mohawk-sporting hunk from FOX's new hit show Glee, the magazine reports.

The Hills' Patridge, 24, and Salling, 27, were joined at the hip for their entire time at the shindig. Sitting at a shared table, the pair spent 45 minutes talking into one another's ear and laughing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pitt turned down $5M to trick-or-treat

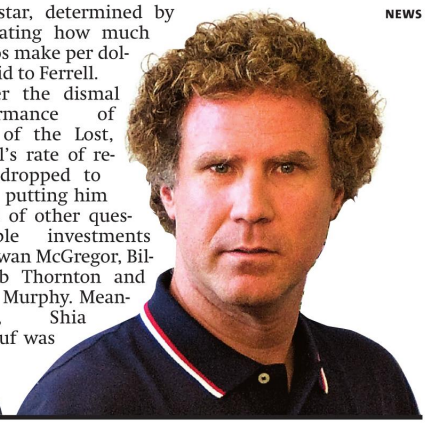
FAMILY MAN Brad Pitt was a no-show at a public appearance in the United Arab Emirates on Oct. 31, declining the offer of a $5 million US appearance fee in order to spend the day trick-or-treating with Angelina Jolie and their six kids, sources say.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ferrell 'Most Overpaid': Forbes

NOT SO FUNNY Will Ferrell finds himself at the top of a new Forbes celebrity list, but it isn't exactly an honour. The magazine has named him the most overpaid star, determined by calculating how much studios make per dollar paid to Ferrell.

After the dismal performance of Land of the Lost, Ferrell's rate of return dropped to $3.29, putting him ahead of other questionable investments like Ewan McGregor, Billy Bob Thornton and Eddie Murphy. Meanwhile, Shia LaBeouf was named Best Actor for the Buck, earning studios $160 for every dollar spent on him.



METRO WORLD NEWS

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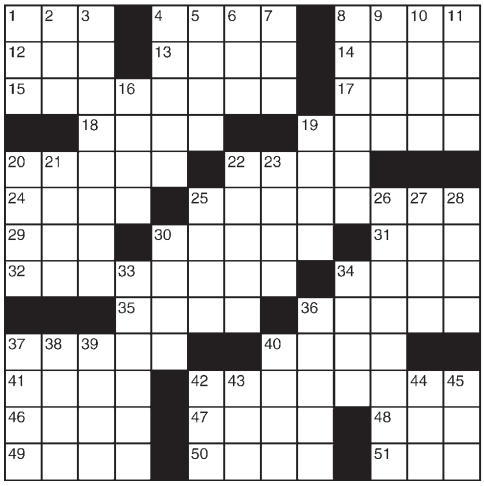

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4					5	3
	5	9		3	6			
8			9					
3		7	2		8			
	4						2	
			3		7	8		6
					2			9
			7	8		1	3	
4	1					5		

ACROSS

1 Pouch
4 Burn somewhat
8 Leading man?
12 Id partner
13 Wild and crazy
14 Prom-goers' car
15 Chevy model
17 Deck in the ring
18 "The Amazing —"
19 Poolroom supply
20 Mrs. Archie Bunker
22 Brat's stocking stuffer
24 Disencumbers
25 Napoleon, by birth
29 Altar affirmative
30 Sudden voltage increase
31 Inseparable
32 Fabric with ribs
34 Scraps
35 Help a hood
36 Cocktail ingredients?
37 Pieces of eight?
40 Existed
41 Hide in the shadows
42 Worn away
46 Brutus' being
47 Vicinity
48 GIs' entertainers
49 Campus bigwig
50 Kitten's comment
51 Gas gauge fig.

DOWN

1 Moment
2 In olden days
3 Hall
4 Prague citizen
5 Loathe
6 Pismire
7 "Catcher in the —"
8 Acid neutralizer
9 Use an old phone
10 — nitrate
11 Cattle calls?
16 Cisterns
19 Contemptible
20 Newscaster Sevareid
21 One-named singer who recorded "Thank You"
22 "Woman With a Pearl" painter
23 Liberal party?
25 Remedy
26 Abrasive mineral
27 Con
28 Egg container
30 Long sandwiches
33 Dim the lights
34 Layered treat
36 Undomesticated
37 Took off
38 Northamptonshire river
39 — Major
40 Cauldron concoction
42 Photog's need
43 Raw rock
44 Kreskin's claim
45 Homer's interjection

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

M	A	S	S		B	I	O		C	A	S	H		
O	S	L	O		O	R	R		A	L	E	E		
R	E	A	L		S	A	L		I	O	N	S		
N	A	V	A	J	O		A	A	R	E				
			C	O	M	I	N	G	O	V	E	R		
D	O	P	E	Y		O	D	E		E	R	A		
A	L	A	S		T	W	O		T	R	I	G		
N	I	L		A	H	A		S	H	A	N	E		
G	O	I	N	G	U	N	D	E	R					
		M	O	O	N		A	T	O	M	I	C		
D	I	O	S		D	I	N		W	I	L	E		
A	O	N	E		E	T	C		I	C	E	S		
B	U	Y	S		R	O	E		N	E	X	T		

6	7	2	8	4	9	1	5	3
3	1	4	6	5	2	7	9	8
9	5	8	1	7	3	2	4	6
4	2	7	5	8	1	6	3	9
5	3	6	9	2	7	4	8	1
8	9	1	4	3	6	5	7	2
2	4	5	3	6	8	9	1	7
1	6	3	7	9	5	8	2	4
7	8	9	2	1	4	3	6	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Pork Fillet with Pears and Tarragon

INGREDIENTS:
1 tbsp (15 ml) butter
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
2 ripe pears, quartered, cored and sliced lengthwise
2 shallots, finely chopped
2 pork fillets, thinly sliced
2/3 cup (150 ml) dry white wine
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh tarragon
4 tbsp (60 ml) heavy cream

INGREDIENTS:
1. Melt half butter with 1/2 tbsp (7 ml) oil in frying pan and fry pears quickly over high heat, turning once, 5 minutes or until golden all over. Remove from pan to warm plate, and cover.
2. Add remaining butter and oil to pan, then stir in chopped shallots and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, 3-4 minutes or until softened and golden.
3. Push shallots to one side of pan, add pork slices and fry 5-6 minutes or until lightly browned, turning once.
4. Pour wine into pan, then boil 1-2 minutes to reduce slightly. Stir in tarragon and heavy cream, then boil for further minute. Adjust seasoning to taste. Serve pork slices topped with pears, and sauce spooned over top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The cosmos is in a state of dynamic flux at the moment but that does not mean you have to be dynamic too.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone will come to you for advice about a personal issue today and although you don't want to get involved you feel obliged to help them out.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Honesty is a must if you are to resolve an issue that has been dragging on for weeks. That means being honest with others and yourself.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You tend to believe only what you can see with your own eyes, but today you might wonder if there are things going on in the background.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
No matter how many great ideas you may have they won't mean a thing unless and until you do something with them.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
In the greater scheme of things there is no such thing as luck, and if you keep that thought in mind you will rediscover the drive that has been lacking.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Try not to take it personally if a friend or colleague is critical of your efforts. They are not really angry at you — they are angry at the world.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
No doubt you are desperate to be doing something more exciting but don't be so impatient for change that you start a task that is clearly going to be difficult.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may have been extra cautious in recent weeks but as from today you can start being a bit more adventurous — but only a bit.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You need to be passionate about what you are doing, especially at work where you appear to have slipped into an easy routine.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
The planets in their wisdom say it is time to move on and deep down you know they are right.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You will be on the go from dawn to dusk today, and when the stars come out tonight that's when you will really speed up.

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Take Five

Metro Recipes of the Day

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Perfect for the kids in winter, peanut butter shortbread bars are see on left with the Mocha Tortoni Mousse on right.

Peanut Butter Shortbread Bars

INGREDIENTS:

SHORTBREAD

250 ml (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened
250 ml (1 cup) granulated sugar
1 egg yolk
2 ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla extract (optional)
500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt

FILLING

125 ml (1/2 cup) smooth peanut butter
125 ml (1/2 cup) icing sugar
30 ml (2 tbsp) unsalted butter, softened
175 ml (3/4 cup) blueberry jam (or grape jelly or strawberry jam for a different flavour)

METHOD:

• In a large bowl, beat butter with sugar and egg yolk using an electric mixer for 2 minutes until light and fluffy. In a separate bowl, blend together flour, baking powder and salt until well combined.
• Divide dough into two equal portions and wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Freeze dough for 1 to 4 hours.
• Preheat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line a 3-l (9-by-13-inch) baking dish with parchment paper; set aside.
• Remove dough from freezer. Shred dough using a coarse grater or food processor fitted with a metal shredding blade; return one portion of shredded dough to the freezer.
• Arrange remaining dough in an even layer in the prepared baking dish; lightly pat dough down. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly golden around edges; let cool for 20 minutes.
• Meanwhile, blend peanut butter with icing sugar and butter until smooth and well combined. Spread peanut butter mixture over shortbread base in an even layer. Drop spoonfuls of jam over peanut butter and gently spread in an even layer.
• Remove remaining dough from freezer and scatter over jam layer. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until the top is set and lightly golden brown. Transfer pan to a wire rack and cool completely; cut into bars.

MAKES 24 BARS.

Mocha Tortoni Mousse

INGREDIENTS:

2 large egg whites
30 ml (2 tbsp) instant coffee
Pinch salt
50 ml (1/4 cup) sugar
500 ml (2 cups) whipping cream
10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla
125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
50 ml (1/4 cup) slivered almonds, toasted and cooled, plus extra for garnish
60 g (2 oz) bittersweet chocolate, grated

TO ROAST NUTS: Roast in a single layer on a baking sheet in a 180 C (350 F) oven for about 10 minutes. Allow them to get light brown, remove and cool.

METHOD:

• In a clean medium bowl, beat egg whites until foamy. Add instant coffee and salt and beat until combined. Gradually add 50 ml (1/4 cup) sugar and beat until soft peaks form.
• In a separate bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form. Beat in vanilla and 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar. Fold in 50 ml (1/4 cup) slivered almonds and transfer to a large glass bowl or individual glasses and freeze at least 2 hours.
• Garnish with remaining slivered almonds and grated chocolate.

MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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